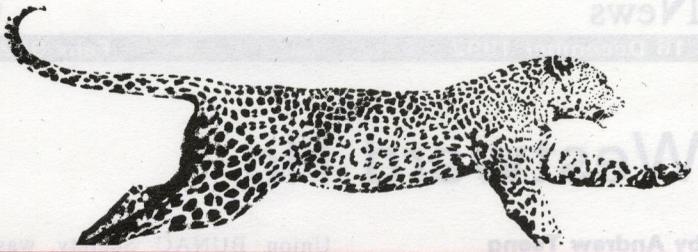


FELIX



The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

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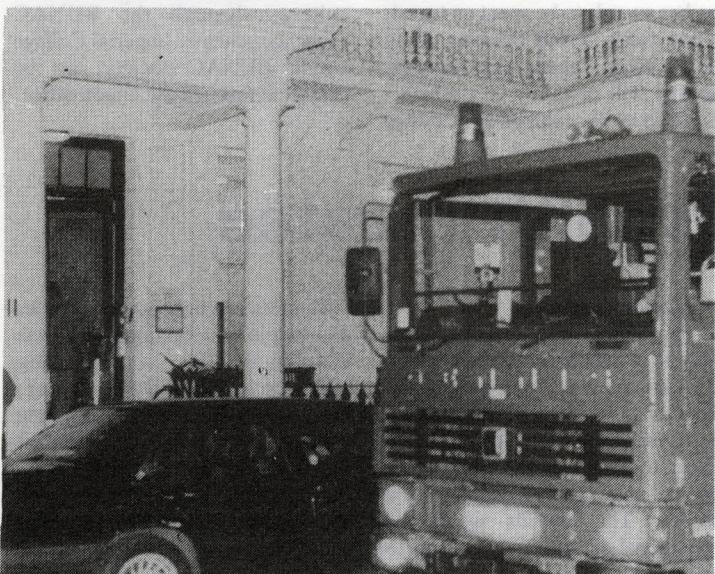
Advisor advised

by Declan Curry
Stefano Ruis, Imperial College Union Adviser, is seeking legal advice on payments to Imperial College Day Nursery. A spokesman for the Attorney General's office told Felix that they had received a letter from the Union asking for permission to seek advice. This was granted as a general request, and the spokesman commended the 'good practice of union officers writing in' if there was a possible problem.

ICU funding to the Day Nursery, in Prince's Gardens, was stopped over two years ago. At that time, sabbatical officers decided that payments to the nursery did not give

a direct educational benefit to students, and so were *ultra vires* (out of rules, illegal). A legal opinion sought by Felix in May this year said that the payment provided for a service of educational benefit, and so was permissible. This interpretation has been confirmed for Felix by the Attorney General's office. The spokesman said yesterday that the Treasury Solicitor was 'pretty relaxed about these payments', as such donations 'were related to the provision of services for students as students'. He added that day care facilities were regarded as 'beneficial to studies'.

Garden's Blaze



The scene out side Gardens Hall on Monday

News Staff
A 'chip pan fire' in Garden Hall was extinguished by the London Fire Brigade on Monday night. The fire started in a third floor kitchen in the Prince's Gardens' hall, when the pan was left heating on the cooker. The oil was being used for an 18th birthday fondue party, and the girl said that she left the pan heating for about five or ten minutes.

Fire alarms were audible and the magnetically locked fire doors opened. The fire brigade were called by security at 8.00pm, and they arrived at the scene at 8.04pm, after which the fire was put out. Speaking at the scene, Angus Fraser, College Managing Director, praised the fire service for their 'prompt intervention'.

Fire alarms went off in the Hall at 7.52pm, and security guards from the Prince's Gardens' Southside lodge were called. The sub-warden put the fire out with a carbon dioxide extinguisher, but it re-ignited as the window was open. Attempts to extinguish the fire a second time failed, and the kitchen filled with smoke. The sub warden evacuated the kitchen, and closed the door.

The Gardens fire followed earlier fires or fire alerts in Southwell Hall and the Union Building, when fire alarms were inaudible. Nicky Fox, Imperial College Union Housing Officer, said she was 'extremely worried' by the failure of fire alarms in Robert Pryor House. The College is continuing with its rolling upgrading of fire safety systems on College grounds. Weeks Hall will be first to be upgraded, followed by Linstead and Southside. Houses in Evelyn Gardens will be the last to be upgraded.

The hall had evacuated as all fire

Library Petition

**by Gareth Light
Asst News Ed**
The first section of a petition calling for longer Library opening hours has been given to the Rector. The 10 page, 154 signature, document calls for the hours of the Lyon Playfair Library to be changed to an opening time of 9am and a closing time of 10pm. This is a 1 hour extension on the current 9.30am-9.30pm opening time, with 5.30pm closing during vacation time. The petition asks for the new hours to apply on Sunday and during vacations.

The petition has been organised by Dr Conrad Lichtenstein, of the Centre for Biotechnology. Dr Lichtenstein tells the Rector that other copies of the petition are in circulation, but the current petition is being sent so that a response can be made before Christmas. The

document says that opinions were 'very strong in support of an extension to the opening hours', and that 'many people were inconvenienced by the early closing in the College vacations'. The proposed new hours would cater for research workers, postgraduates and undergraduates working through the holidays.

Dr Lichtenstein says that an extension to the opening hours will require an increase in salary costs, and suggests that a significant increase in costs could be avoided by using security staff to man the library during the extended hours. Dr Lichtenstein adds that this means the usual library support services will not be available in the new opening periods, but that staff and students 'would be grateful just to use the library even if unable to take books out then'.

3/4/5
Letters
Bonanza

11
Pray
for Gays

12/13
Mirror
Monopoly

Pull-out
Xtra Xmas
Xtravaganza

Westward Ho

by Andrew Tseng

Imperial College student Kirsty Darbyshire has won \$1000 after becoming the 150,000th participant of the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC). The 30 year old club exists to enable young people to combine work and travel. The BUNAC programme allows students to take almost 'any job, anywhere' in North America over the summer vacation. Commenting on her award, to be spent on travel, Kirsty said, 'I was thinking about doing Work Canada next summer, so this will certainly be useful'.

Meanwhile, Imperial College

Union BUNAC Society was affiliated to Imperial College Union Social Clubs Committee (SCC) at this week's meeting of ICU Council. The affiliation means that all members of Imperial College Union can participate in the club. The club intends staging a lecture programme in college to inform members about the culture of North America, and encouraging interest in North American countries and cultures through the BUNAC exchange scheme. Imperial College Union BUNAC society can be contacted through the Union office.

Wealth created

by Dave Goddard

Undergraduate engineering students may be in line for more money from the Government. John Patten, the Education Secretary, is considering extra money on top of grants and loans to increase the number of people entering engineering as a career. The awards would be conditional on students promising to spend their early careers in engineering companies after graduation. Similar bursaries have already been used for postgraduate teacher training courses.

The move to increase the number of people in engineering was welcomed by engineering representatives. Denis Filer, Director General of the Engineering Council, said that the Government had 'recognised that professional engineers are wealth creators', and added that increasing the number of engineers would 'not only help to rebuild our manufacturing sector but will also help the United Kingdom to be more competitive in the international field'.

Rethink on voluntary membership?

by Declan Curry News Editor

An outline of the membership of the Imperial College Union Working Party on Union structure has been announced. Imperial College Union (ICU) Council approved the list during their meeting last Monday night. The Structure Working Party includes Tim Cotton, Nicky Fox, Mark Summers, Boon Yeo, and Andy Wensley. Also on the party will be an Academic Affairs Officer (AAO) and a Constituent College Union (CCU) president. The CCU president may serve as an observer, as will Jonathan Griffiths, last year's Union deputy president.

The Structure Working Party was set up as part of a widespread organisational review of Union Structure. The review, brainchild of Chris Davidson, ICU President, was announced at a Union General Meeting and a Council meeting in November. Mr Davidson described the current Union structure as 'out of date', and said that the review

should 'leave no stone unturned' in deciding what students want from the Union. Mr Davidson earlier said that the 'staff side' of the Union was 'excellent', and said on Monday that staff may be co-opted onto the Structure Working Party.

As yet, no mechanism has been set up to allow students to make submissions to the Structure Working Party, but it is expected that student opinion will be canvassed using 'focus groups', where small groups of students are invited to give their opinions about the Union. This technique, used by supermarkets for market research, is one of several tools chosen by the Voluntary Membership Working Party, also set up by Mr Davidson. This working party has already had its first meeting, the details of which remain confidential.

Ministerial level discussions on voluntary membership have been taking place in a week which has

Breaking up

by Felix reporters

The General Union Council (GUC) of the University of London Union (ULU) held its second meeting last week. The Council is the highest student body of the Union, and serves as the policy making forum of ULU.

Delegates discussed the break up of the University of London, following suggestions by some colleges about disaffiliation from the University. After discussion, the meeting passed a motion urging ULU to act against any break up of the University of London. Chris Davidson, Imperial College Union president, spoke against the motion because, he said, GUC rules did not allow him to speak without taking sides. Mr Davidson continued that he thought ULU were acting 'rashly', and that they could 'handle the matter more diplomatically'. Mr Davidson later said that it was premature to discuss defederalisation when no proposals were 'on the table'. He added that he felt 'isolated' at the meeting, as he attracted some criticism from other delegates at the time.

Mark Samuels, ULU President, told Felix after the meeting that he was saddened that 'the Imperial delegation felt isolated. Chris felt the motion was targeted against him, when it applied just as much to others'. Mr Samuels added that

he 'got the impression that Chris couldn't speak out because he was on the charter review working party (the committee set up by Imperial College to review the charter setting up the College)'.

The GUC meeting also passed a motion to act against 'fascism and holocaust revisionism'. This motion had been proposed at an earlier meeting, but had not been discussed then. GUC also passed a motion removing any constitutional policies which are 'ultra vires', literally out of rules, or illegal. Mr Samuels, ULU president, denied that ULU was being investigated by the Attorney General's office for ultra vires payments. The Attorney General's office confirmed that a written complaint had been made about an earlier decision by GUC to subscribe to the *Searchlight* magazine. A legal spokesman said that a letter would be written to ULU asking them for further details. Mr Samuels said that they had not received such a letter, and that the union had decided not to subscribe to the magazine.

At the end of the GUC meeting, Mr Davidson suggested that ULU should carry out a review of its procedures for GUC meetings, as he considered them bureaucratic. Mr Samuels responded that a report on the union procedures was being compiled.

reflect unease in sections of the Conservative Party that the government's plans may damage what is regarded as 'good' about student unions, without significantly resolving what is seen as the misuse of public funds. A source close to a Conservative pressure group said that the government had 'bitten off more than it could chew', while a source in the party complained that 'an ideological approach' had not taken account of the 'majority of good things' done by unions. The Department for Education is now being joined in drawing up any policy by the Government Policy Unit. The Unit, based in the Prime Minister's offices in 10 Downing Street, held a six hour meeting on the evening of Tuesday 8th December, discussing the different options on implementation of voluntary membership.

Editorial

Replies to letters

This week, Rick Bilby (ICU Deputy President) writes a letter containing aggressive attacks on CA France, in a letter he has had published this week. A peculiar event, which I feel requires some explanation on my part.

Last week, Rick came down to Felix saying that he wished to write a letter and would I mind if it was a bit late? In the ensuing discussion, I told Rick that another letter by CA France had been submitted on the subject of fire alarms. Obviously Rick was interested, and I let him see the letter. In retrospect, this was more than a little unusual and I regret doing it. Rick wrote his abrasive letter as a response to what CA France had to say.

Here is a tiny note of editorial policy. From now on, if a letter is submitted for an issue of Felix, no one but Felix staff will see it until the copy is printed and distributed.

I apologise for this single lapse of fair play on my part and it will not happen again. Rick or anyone else in this Union does not have the right to preview or try and belittle the opinion of those who have the courage to stand up to him. With an ICU president whose ways of dealing with criticism are, at best, doubtful, but at least more subtle than his predecessor, we need students who voice their objections to the way they are treated. After a slight hiccup, Felix will continue to be the best forum for the expression of all opinions at Imperial.

Statement of Intent

The most grief I get is caused by students who want to see their own articles printed and are upset because their piece didn't get in. Indulge me please with a little word of explanation. Letters, Clubs and Societies articles, Small Ads, What's on pieces and Sports

reports, to gain a chance of being printed should be in at 1pm the Monday before Felix's Friday publication. Features and Adverts should be submitted the Friday before publication. Submitting by these deadlines does not guarantee you will get into Felix but submitting after, guarantees you won't. Thank you for listening; have a nice day.

Choc-o-holics

Subject to violent mood swings? More importantly, do you eat chocolate in secret? Do you eat more than 12 bars of chocolate a week? If you can answer 'yes' to the above questions, it is very likely that the answers are connected. If you are worried, you are not alone. Some people eat 70 bars of chocolate a week according to a survey published yesterday. Those under pressure, possibly even in the Union Building, should take care, and beware of those irrational

temperament changes. Watch this space for the names of those affected.

Theft

A Metz Flash gun with Minolta strap has 'gone missing' from the Felix Office. If you have any information about where it might be, please inform the Felix office and ask for Richard Eyers.

Christmas

May I take this chance to wish everyone who reads this far a very pleasant Christmas, and give special thanks to everyone who has helped produce Felix this year. A lot of students put a lot of time and effort into your magazine. If you want to get involved, we will be open most of the vacation and as soon as college returns; so come along and help out. Felix will return for your entertainment on January 15th next year. Please try and survive without us; I know it will be hard, but try.

Pay yer taxes, missus

Dear Jonty,

As part of our regular weekly sale of 'Socialist Worker' the members of IC Socialist Worker Student Society (ICSWSS) held an ad-hoc referendum in the JCR, the purpose of which was to stimulate debate and interest in the question posed.

The voters were given the free choice between two responses: 'I support the abolition of the monarchy and the founding of a republic' or 'I support the continuation of the monarchy'.

It is, of course, impossible to draw any firm conclusions from such a quickly arranged and light-hearted vote, in fact, the number of votes cast was also too small to permit any concrete analysis; (and before you say 'oh yeah, they're only saying that because everybody showed their support for the Queen'; in fact the small number of votes cast were overwhelmingly in favour of abolition) however, from the many interesting conversations we had in the JCR, it was obvious to us that the abolition issue is at last a reality.

One would say that the response was only due to the renewed topicality of the Royal Family. That is true enough. However, it is encouraging from our point of view to see the question of abolition being seriously discussed on breakfast television and even more encouraging to see that the Queen will at last pay tax on her vast fortune (given to her by the

taxpayers of this country), even though I doubt it will be backdated.

It is also a breath of fresh air to see the people finally getting fed up with the constant bailing out of the monarchy. Finally the lunacy of the system was made apparent: Sixty million pounds for an old lady with no fire insurance from a government (who get their revenue off the working people of this country) who tell us there is no money for schools, hospitals, new job creation or unemployment benefit.

For the price of damage to the house of a grandmother with five or six 'little houses' think what we could do for the hundreds of thousands with no roof at all over their heads, Windsor is a great building, the Queen might be a nice person (I wouldn't know as I've never met her). It's nothing personal.

I wonder if the Union would consider a proper referendum on the monarchy, just for interest's sake—we'd be more than willing to co-operate, as I'm sure would the IC ConSoc who would just love to see us filthy Bolsheviks stuffed.

Most of all, let's debate. We're all rational human beings. Tell me how we should spend the £60M the Queen will get for Windsor. Maybe we could put it towards paying the £1 billion it will cost to close the coal mines...

Yours sincerely,
Matthew Salter, ICSWSS

Nemesis

Dear Jonty,

The Hellenic Society would like to protest against the provocation of the Turkish Society during the Overseas Week. The Turkish maps showing the Greek islands of Rhodes and the Dodecanese as well as the occupied part of the independent Republic of Cyprus without indication that they were part of independent countries were sure to provoke the anger and bitterness of Greeks and Greek-Cypriots alike. The Turkish society not only destroyed the spirit of the event—which was the exhibition of culture, civilisation and life of the countries concerned—but also deliberately insulted us and provoked trouble by refusing to take down the offensive material, when ordered to do so by Union officials. The Turkish Society knew what our reaction would be and therefore is the sole responsible for the disruption of the event.

This act is part of the generalised Turkish propaganda which has triple aim: firstly, to justify the atrocities committed 18 years ago in Cyprus; secondly, to perpetuate the occupation and division of the island of Cyprus, which is condemned by the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the British and Commonwealth governments; thirdly, to promote territorial claims against Greece, which could lead to war. It is unacceptable to us that Imperial College which has such a large Greek community should be the stage for this kind of propaganda.

We therefore demand an apology from the Turkish Society in writing and we really hope that these provocations will stop taking place in our College.

The Hellenic Society,
The Vice President
Christas Dallis.

Hard of listening

Dear Sir,

With reference to Imperial College Radio. I am, without doubt, mystified as to the reason why my reception of this service in my residence is so poor. I am a resident in Weeks Hall, which is the North side of Prince's Gardens. My receiving apparatus is of a quality which can pick up most transmissions.

I am of the knowledge that these types of broadcasting units have usually a restricted range, but surely

Weeks Hall should be within this range.

Therefore I would like to enquire to other readers, whether their service is affected in a similar way and if so I would like to raise the question, is a service that has such a limited broadcast ability able to perform the task of reaching its target audience—students of Imperial College?

Yours sincerely,
Matthew Daniel Solomon, EE1.

Slogan

Dear Felix,

As an active sports person within the College, I always read with particular interest the sports page in Felix. However, I find myself becoming increasingly frustrated by the stupid slogans inserted between people's first and surnames when mentioned in articles. So come on all your sports scribes out there; stop being wankers and stick to the facts.

Yours,

Dave (becoming increasingly frustrated by the stupid slogans inserted between people's first and surnames) Buckle.

A typical response

Dear Jonty,

I'm quite sure that your editorial on 'Religion' will receive several replies—some may even bear out what you wrote by losing their temper!

Even recent history shows that the damage caused by misguided religion can be significant. Less obvious, perhaps, are some of the positive roles that the traditional churches fulfil. Leaving aside the question of whether belief is unfounded, the counselling, community and charitable activities of religious institutions are worthwhile in their own right.

Particularly in difficult economic

times, many people find themselves isolated, depressed and desperate. Any religious minister will tell you that much of his (or her) time is spent supporting and advising these people. The luxury of faith, which many here at Imperial find difficult to accept, affords at least some hope in a world that may seem very unwelcoming.

The disadvantages stem from the transition from religious fervour, or any form of extremism, to violence. It seems unreasonable to lay this solely at the door of any Church. In most cases the label of religion is added to an essentially cultural or historic disturbance.

I doubt very much that the IRA are fighting for the benefit of Roman Catholicism. If they were they might listen to Pope John Paul II and cease their pointless terrorist campaign.

Perhaps our conclusion should be to remind religious societies and institutions that they should pay more attention to their own consciences and creeds. It is difficult to understand any religious body that achieves its aims by harming or offending others.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Maxwell, Elec Eng 2,
Vice President, CathSoc.

Isn't he a little old for all this?

Dear Jonty,

It is with a twinge of regret that I feel the need to write to you regarding the 'Beit Back' column, Felix issue 951. Initially I would like to say that this correspondence is not something designed to ring fence my ego, but more an interpretation of facts and how it may be possible to move forward into the future with a positive perspective rather than a negative one.

Quoting 'Beit Back' you say '...Ye Olde Johnny Griffiths (32)'—in fact I am 31, Date of Birth 20 May 1962.

Moving on from such pedantics, Mr Back states '...what Jonathan did last year—as far as security goes, absolutely nothing'. Then, halfway through the last paragraph, and I quote again 'A year ago there was a vast change in Union Security', (something which, as Deputy President, was one of my many areas of responsibility). 'When card checking was introduced, and the then Duty Officers, started working in groups...'

Surely a blatant contradiction? I did absolutely nothing last year regarding security, as well as implementing a vast change! Okay, self esteem dealt with, let us now look at security itself. The only reason we need security staff is because a certain area is insecure. We have fire alarms installed in the Union Building to inform its occupants to get out a.s.a.p. because of a fire, but it can also be used to deter the mugger, rapist, etc from carrying out their evil deeds. From my experience last year as Deputy President, went off on a few occasions, but for only two reasons. Firstly, as a test to make sure all the circuits, and evacuation procedures were in order, and secondly because

of wanton vandalism.

Because of the Union Card checks now in place, and one year old, this means that only members of Imperial College Union, their bone-fide quests, and members of other student unions who have reciprocal membership with ICU are users of the Union Building on Wednesday and Friday nights. In essence, it turns out that the vast majority of users of Wednesdays and Fridays are undergraduates at IC. So when we have a false alarm of the nature witnessed in the early hours of Saturday 28th November, it is relatively safe to assume that A. N. Other from Department X (immaturely) attempted to empty the Union Building, spoiling a perfectly good night for the other stressed out students who just wanted to relax and have a bit of fun.

The moral of the story? Criticise the sabbatical in charge of security? Yes, but criticise constructively and find out why, for instance, the alarm's couldn't be heard, or why the maglocks did not open. Armed with the answers to these questions it is then time to analyse the infrastructure of, how it could be, and why the Union Building has not been altered. After all, the Students' Union only receives a small subvention from College every year and then ICU has to make choices on how to spend this money. And don't forget, YOU the students direct the Union on how to spend its subvention by the various student committees. The sabbaticals cannot just decide on, say, Friday to invest £10,000 (or £10 for that matter) and then start spending on the following Monday. The Union has to find this money from somewhere within its limited budget, and only if you, the students, approve. Would you like your society's budget halved, or do

without the £8000 to help purchase the Print Unit's collator? In all honesty, I think not. You must also remember that ultimately Imperial College are the controllers of the Union Building and any change within must be authorised, investigated and sometimes over-managed by them. So, you may bad-mouth Rick Bilby but he can only operate as efficiently as the resources available to him allow. With this in mind, I suggest you read 'The Official Version', page 5 of Issue 951 and I think a constructive conclusion is that Rick is doing the best he can given the resources available to him. He has organised a new power supply at no monetary cost to you the student.

Finally, think about the term 'Resources Available'. Resources are not just cash balances, bricks and mortar etc, but they also include the students of ICU. Just as cash balances can be classified as

positive or negative, the student (?) who set off the alarm is without doubt a negative resource to the Union and in turn a negative asset to his/her fellow students who were adversely affected by the culprit's aforementioned immature acts.

Does Rick, your elected representative deserve what he got? No, certainly not. In fact, all the criticism should have been directed at the person who set off the alarm. This type of individual is spoiling, and will continue to spoil an environment especially designed for students to enjoy themselves. So next time why not denote your copy in a way which is intended to punish the instigator of such crimes, while you constructively criticise the sabbaticals, and the manner in which they allocate the scarce resources available to them.

Merry Christmas,

J B Griffiths (31)

Maths with Management 3.

A lone voice

Dear Sir,

As I anticipated in my letter of 28th November, the college management have mostly ignored the potentially fatal matter of inadequate fire alarms and locked fire doors at the Union on Friday 27th November.

The only attempt to acknowledge this, came from the Union Deputy President (Felix 4th December). What a pathetic article that was! He writes that the evacuation took longer than was hoped; fifteen minutes! One quarter of one hour! In less than one third of that time, fire can engulf a room, such as Da Vinci's for example.

He writes that alarm bells are not audible in some parts of the building; should that not have read,

'...in any busy, well populated area...'? He also says that he has been assured of improvements as soon as possible; NOT GOOD ENOUGH!! When?

However, the crowning stupidity in this article is when he writes that the fire exits are only kept locked shut when the building is in use. PARDON?

The aforementioned article shows just how negligent is the attitude of management when it comes to fire safety. I just hope that I am one of the lucky ones who escapes a fatal incident and is able to testify to the 'Criminal Negligence' of College and Union Management.

Yours faithfully,

C A France, Civ Eng 2.

Beyond belief

Dear Jonty,

The Belief of Disbelief

Your editorial on the 4th of December 1992, dealing with religion in general, and Islam in particular, was very interesting. I would like to, if I may, add to a few of the points you made.

Firstly, what is a religion? Basically it is a set of beliefs that compels the believing to think and act in a certain way. So the first thing to point out is that atheism i.e. the belief that there is no Creator, is also a religion. Now, the religion of Christianity for example, may lead one to pray and refrain from violence. But what does the religion of atheism lead one to do? Because the belief involves the disbelief in a Creator and an afterlife, the atheist has one goal in life—material benefit—be it to get money, women or satisfaction in his heart and mind

by campaigning against social injustices. It's all about getting as much contentment in this life, as is possible. Thus money is spent on perhaps, cigarettes, drinks, gigs, sports, politics, various action groups etc. But surely it's all a waste if at the end of it all, you're just going to die. We should see the religion of atheism for what it really is—a waste of time and a grabber of money.

You asked the rhetorical question of how many wars were caused by religion. In answering this let's consider the wars of the last century (in which, perhaps, more people have died than in all the other wars in history put together). Was WW1, in which 20 million Russian soldiers alone died, caused by your average religion? Or was it about atheists seeking material benefit such as

power and land? The same applies for WW2 in which nuclear weapons were first used and racial minorities were systematically executed. And what of the wars in the world during the past fifty years. Were they caused by your average religion or by the propaganda and politics of two atheist superpowers, who were seeking material benefit i.e. power. And can all those wars in the Arab world be said to be caused by Islam, Christianity and Judaism? Or can it be said that they were caused by capitalists, socialists, and military dictators (i.e. atheists) who are propped up by America and Russia (i.e. atheists)? The religion of atheism has indeed caused a lot of bloodshed.

Any religion, be it atheism, Christianity or whatever, has no merit unless it's based on reality. There's no point in living life believing in a Creator and the afterlife, if these are not reality. And there's no point living life believing there's no Creator or an afterlife if that is not the reality. Which ever is the reality, we should act upon it—even if that is sometimes difficult. The reality that you need a degree to get a job that you want, may not please you very

much—nevertheless, you'd still live according to that reality and study for three years to get that degree.

So what's the reality? The reality is that your calculator did not make itself—it was created. The reality is that you did not create yourself—you were created. Thus the reality is that the universe, which is a billion times more complex than the calculator, you or whatever, was also created. And remember, the reality is that we don't have to see the making of the calculator and the maker to know that he exists. Thus the reality is that we don't need to see the Creator and the creation of the universe to know that it was created.

I know that I can prove to anyone who is open-minded that the Creator is a reality—it exists, and I can also prove that the Quran is the authentic word of that Creator. As a result I try to live according to Islam. I invite you, and anyone to chat to practising muslims to discuss with us these realities of life. Hopefully after doing so, you'll realise that Islam has nothing to do with insecurity, doubts or any of the other things mentioned in your editorial in Felix Issue 951.

Billy Qureshi, Civ Eng 2.

Space Filled

Every question answered

Dear Jonty,

I was concerned to read C.A. France's letter 'Alarmed' in last week's Felix and would like to respond to the questions it raises, over the circumstances surrounding the fire alert in the Union Building on Friday 27th November.

1. As the ICU Deputy President has already reported, the incident highlighted the inadequacy of the alarm bells in certain parts of the building. Action has already been taken to get necessary remedial works underway. The building is being rewired this week and new alarm sounders will be installed and tested over the coming weekend.

2. The door between the Union Bar and Da Vinci's did not unlock automatically, because the power supply proved inadequate to operate the integrated alarm and doorlock system effectively under full evacuation conditions. We have satisfied ourselves that this was a one off problem by its very nature and it has been dealt with already as a matter of extreme urgency. Further improvements will be obtained as a result of the current overhaul of the alarm bell system.

3. We had two security officers on duty in Beit Quad at the time of the incident and they were evidently able to establish quickly that there

had been a false alarm. It is not normal for buildings to be directly linked to the fire service.

4. The College management is very much aware of the need for the closest possible attention to be paid to fire safety throughout the College. I can assure your correspondent and all your readers that we are committed to ensuring that all necessary safeguards are taken. Indeed, we have increased our internal resources during this year, through the appointment of a new Fire Officer, in order to be able to respond more rapidly and effectively to the increasing demands being made on us in this area.

May I take this opportunity to add, in response to two other points which were raised in your 4th December issue, that the Fire Officer, Graham Cox, has fire training for stewards in hand. Furthermore, regular checks are made on fire extinguishers. If they are found to be empty, they are replaced immediately. All too often, regrettably, extinguisher problems are caused by student high spirits, as was the case once again at the Disco party last Friday.

Yours sincerely,

Angus Fraser.

A nip on the heels

Dear Jonty,

As you may know, I consider those spineless individuals who choose to write anonymously without good reason, to be beneath contempt. These people do not deserve to have their criticisms answered. With regard to last week's 'Beit Back' article, suffice it to say that the author is obviously as ignorant as (s)he is arrogant. Not only was the article riddled with inaccuracies, it was clearly written by an individual who has not the slightest concept of the way Imperial College Union and its security operation is run.

On a similar subject I should like to answer this week's letter from C A France. Unfortunately the letter includes numerous misquotations from my article in last week's Felix and so is limited in its validity. The real howler is the misinterpretation of my statement (and I quote) 'The only time the 'maglock' doors are closed while the building is in use, is during an event'. Perhaps Mr France would like to crown his own stupidity, or rather illiteracy!

The one constructive question asked by C A France was 'When?', referring to the improvements to be made to the Union fire alarm

system. On Monday I was informed by College security that work on the installing of the new power supply unit will have begun by the time of publication. This power supply unit will boost the sound produced by alarm bells in the building. If the installation is not already complete, it will be finished next week.

I should like to point out that while I am responsible for security within the Union building, fire safety for the whole college, including the Union, is undertaken by College security.

As to accusations of criminal negligence on the part of Union management, these are ridiculous, let alone libellous. I cannot guarantee that in future nothing will ever go wrong in the Union building, not that it will suddenly become a Utopian place where everyone can live in harmony and peace, whilst still indulging in their pleasures and enjoying themselves. If there is a deity out there who can bestow upon us such a status, please do. While we are waiting, we mere mortals have to do our best to cope with reality.

Rick Bilby,

ICU Deputy President.

Back-kick your slingjoy and off..?

WARNING: Adults only this Friday as the Union Building is taken over by an orgy of aural excitement and visual frenzy. Yep...the return of *Dr Death Bang* and his posse of sexual misfits; *Death Bang Party*. A firm favourite with Imperial hedonists, their palace of pleasure will be throbbing into the early hours with a pop pedigree unrivalled in these waters.

These pessaries of pop will be facing a strong challenge to their throne from the support band of the night—*Pussies Galore*. Now, now don't laugh they're a very serious musical all-girl trio whose taste for kinky clothing, whips and rousing renditions of James Bond theme tunes and songs like 'Biker Chicks' should not impose on their serious music credibility. They've played at Kinky Gerlinky's Puscha and the recent Skin Two ball. Miss them at your peril.

There'll be the usual effervescent ents disco to send you on your merry way home to Xmas celebrations. With a bar till 2am, Smile Zone Happy Hour (8.30pm-10pm: All drinks down



20%) and disco till 3am.

BE WARNED: This end of term event is liable to sell out. In the event of this happening, there will be positively no entry without a

ticket. Da Vinci's and the traditional bar will close at 7.30pm with the whole Union Building being cleared at this time. Entry will then be restricted to the event. Tickets are

limited. Buy yours now to avoid disappointment—£2.50 in advance, £3 on the door. Get your kinky gear out and make love.

Andy.

New Union Advice Office opens

What's in a name?

ICU's Welfare Office is changing its name. From Monday 7th December it will be known as the **Union Advice Office** in order to more accurately reflect the type of work undertaken. ICU's Welfare Adviser will be known as the **Union Adviser**, again to convey the fact that students seek *advice* from the Office and that this advice is not necessarily tied up with welfare matters. Consultations with the President of the Union and the Union Manager have resulted in this change being put forward and the action has been welcomed by the College's Student Welfare Committee.

The **Advice Office** will maintain the existing opening hours and students are free to seek advice on *any matter*. Stefano Ruis, the Union Adviser, is a professional member of ICU's staff. He has considerable advice work experience gained through his work in Citizens Advice Bureaux and within a Law Centre. Students (and staff) can approach him for advice on any matter of concern from legal rights, immigration problems and debt to

consumer matters, taxation and landlord and tenant disputes. The service remains **confidential** at all times so no details about your consultation will be divulged to any third party without your express permission.

Stefano can be consulted either by phone or in person during his advertised 'surgery' hours. No appointment is necessary but special arrangements can be made where necessary - just telephone beforehand in order to discuss your needs.

New Legal Advice Surgeries

Following negotiations between the Union Adviser and a local firm of solicitors, the Union Advice Office is pleased to announce the start of a new **Legal Advice Surgery** available to all students and staff. From **Monday 14th December** volunteer solicitors will be available on a fortnightly basis to give free legal advice during an evening session. Consultations are by appointment only and these must be made through the Union Adviser. Students should first seek advice from the Union Adviser who may

then make an appointment for the legal advice session where this would be appropriate. The solicitors can advise on a number of subjects and, where necessary, at their discretion, could undertake

negotiations on your behalf. The service is only available through the Union Advice Office so students seeking legal advice should consult Stefano Ruis (the Union Adviser) in the first instance.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
Union

ADVICE SERVICE

| | | | |
|---|------------|--|------------------------------------|
| OPENING HOURS | | | |
| for personal callers | | | |
| <small>(no appointment necessary)</small> | | | |
| | am | | pm |
| Mon | 11.00-1.00 | | 2.00-6.30 |
| Tue | 10.30-1.00 | | 2.00-5.00 |
| Wed | closed | | 2.00-5.00 |
| Thu | 10.30-1.30 | | 2.00-5.00 |
| Fri | | | <small>by appointment only</small> |
| telephone enquiries | | | |
| 071-589 5111 ext 3507 | | | |
| Monday | 11.00-6.30 | | |
| Tues-Fri | 10.30-5.30 | | |

Rag Review

Well, what a term it has been. RAG has raised so far this term over £30,000. I am truly impressed, cos this is all down to you. RAG Raids near and far, crazy events, parties, competitions. The list is endless. How do we manage to bring you so much fun. Well, just in case you're worried that we may have run out of ideas, let me put your minds at rest. Next term will be even bigger. You want to know why? Well read on then silly.

Next term is RAG Week term. 'Wot's that then?' I hear you cry. Well, it's basically the craziest, wackiest week of term and there is no way what so ever to avoid it (other than visiting your great aunt in Siberia). It runs from January 29th to February 6th and every day there is at least one crazy thing going on. Just to whet your appetite, we have here a copy of the timetable for RAG week, cunningly leaked by me.

We will also be running the usual services (Hit Squad, Killer, Grim Reaping etc.) so if you fancy getting involved pop up and see us in the RAG Office in the union Building. You maybe wondering what a few of these events are so, to clarify matters, here are a few definitions. RAG Carnival is along the same lines as an Ents party with live bands and a bar extension. Also planned is Bar Fly jumping etc. so watch out for that. RAG Rugby is a new event suggested by the Ladies Rugby team. They have challenged the RSM firsts team to a match but,

RAG WEEK

JANUARY

29th **RAG Carnival Evening**
Union Building.
30th **RAG Raid All Day**
Somewhere Far
31st **RAG Rugby**
Five legged pub crawl
Evening

FEBRUARY

1st **Mines Dirty Disco**
Evening, Union Building.
2nd **Slave Auction**
Lunchtime, Mech Eng
Film Evening
Evening, Concert Hall
3rd **Beer Festival**
All day, JCR
4th **Hypnosis**
Evening, Great Hall
5th **The Great RAG Bash**
Evening, Union Building.
6th **Sponsored Nude Kamikaze**
Parachute Jump
Morning, Somewhere Near

to even things up, the men are going to play in wellies and suspenders! Mines Dirty Disco is similar to Rocky Horror but taking things a bit further. Basically, the less you wear, the less you pay!

The last event of RAG Week has to be given a special mention because if you want to take part, you need to get a sponsor form soon. Don't be put off by the title because it's not as bad as it sounds. The jump is only two feet out of the back of a minibus. However, the minibus is parked outside Harrods, you have nothing on other than a pair of parachute boots and a harness and then you have to run back to the Union. If any of you are feeling a little apprehensive about joining us in this, let me add that at least two ladies are taking part and some of us intend to walk back!

For those of you who enjoyed Guild's Hit Squad then you can take part again during RAG Week. Also available from the RCS will be 'Pint-o-Grams', 'Handcuff-o-Grams', 'Gnoming and Grim Reaping, great ways to pamper yourself, get yourself and a fancible partner chained together for the day (or night) and to embarrass your friends and lecturers.

If you have any ideas for silly sponsorship events (like shaving all body hair) or if you just want to get involved more come to Rag meetings every Friday in the Ents Lounge at 1.10pm or go to your CCU Office for their events.

Parachute Jump

Ok, so we have had a bungee jump so lets now go a little higher up and take a slower descent. Next term you can Parachute jump for Multiple Sclerosis. Now is the best time to pick up your sponsorship forms so you can con your relatives into giving you some dosh over Christmas. This way you can raise loads of money and do the jump for free. A deposit of £80 will be needed after Christmas but with all those relatives it will be easy to raise £130 to do it Free (most of our Bungee jumpers raised over £100)

The usual rag incentives will apply so if you haven't yet done anything with Rag you can get an exclusive Mug at £50, a designer T-Shirt at £150 and a sweatshirt at £300. If lots of you do a jump we will be able to bring the cost down. Come up to the RAG Office on the east staircase of the Union or to a RAG meeting to pick up a sponsor form. You can also collect forms for the Sponsored Nude Kamikaze Parachute Jump or any other zany ideas you have for RAG Week.

Be Mad!
Be Silly!
Be Part
of it!

RAG CARNIVAL

★ Storming Party ★

★ Live Bands ★

29th Jan

Union Building

All proceeds to RAG

Football Crazy

Maybe all you avid Felix readers will remember that earlier in the term we promised you Free Football Matches. Well we did, and here they are.

Sat Dec 19 Chelsea v Man Utd
 Sat Jan 9 Chelsea v Man City
 Sat Jan 16 QPR v Man Utd
 Wed Feb 17 England v San Marino
 Sat Feb 27 Chelsea v Arsenal
 Sat Mar 6 QPR v Norwich
 Tue Mar 23 Crystal Palace v Liverpool
 Wed Apr 28 England v Holland
 Sat May 1 Chelsea v Coventry
 Sun May 16 FA Cup Final

If you want to go, come to a Friday RAG meeting (1.10pm in the Ents Lounge) and sign up. There are only two catches. Firstly, you will be cruelly forced to grab a collecting can and raise some money for charity inside the ground. Secondly, as the response for the FA cup Final places has been so large already, if you want a place you'll have to have done at least one or two other collections before hand.

So, if you're football crazy, pop up and see us some time.

Rag Raid

The third Rag Raid of term happened on Saturday the 5th. 13 Raggies set off to Aylesbury to collect for Barnados. Why Aylesbury? Well there weren't any licences to collect in any of the closer university towns, so we picked somewhere that wasn't too far, had a market, and a burning need for collectors.

The weather was a little cold, but the Christmas shoppers with all

their spare cash were out in force, so we managed to raise a cool £860. The top collector was Francesca Fiorentino with £160; not bad for a rookie.

On the way home we took a slight detour to the pub followed by singing all the usual sing-a-longs in the minibus.

Anyway, thanks to Tim Atkinson for driving and everyone else for coming along.

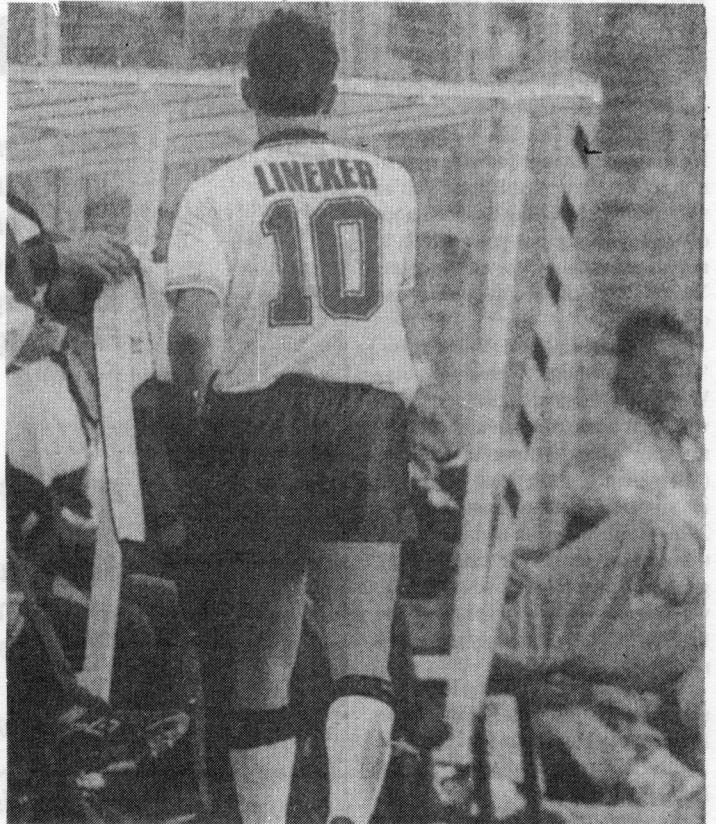
You too?



Would you trust these people with your money?

I've Tiddled, played Monopoly, Climbed a pavement and Bungee Jumped. I've had Free Fun Fantastic days out at Maidstone, Aylesbury and Guildford winning a Barrel of Beer with my Hall Chums and guess what? I've still come back for more. Perhaps it's because I also got to see QPR v Leeds for FREE, The London Crusaders for FREE and above all

The CURE LIVE for FREE!! Are you impressed? You should be! Are you jealous? You should be! But you too can be Part of it by coming to weekly RAG meetings and joining the leaders of the crowd and getting involved with the mayhem. Oh yes, by the way I've also raised over £1000 for charities letting our fun antics have a beneficial side for others.



APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POSITION OF:

SUBWARDEN

IN

LINSTEAD HALL

WANTED LIVELY, HARDWORKING, WELL ORGANISED, SOCIABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS AT LEAST TWO YEARS REMAINING AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE. RENT FREE ACCOMODATION SUITABLE FOR A COUPLE IS THE REMUNERATION FOR THIS JOB.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ACCOMODATION OFFICE AND MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WARDEN DR JAN BRADLEY BY FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER. PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF WHY YOU WANT THE JOB AND THE QUALITIES YOU POSSESS THAT YOU FEEL WILL MAKE YOU A GOOD SUBWARDEN. INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD EARLY THE FOLLOWING WEEK WITH A VIEW TO APPOINTING SOMEONE TO COMMENCE WORK AT THE START OF NEXT TERM.

Praise fit for a Queen?

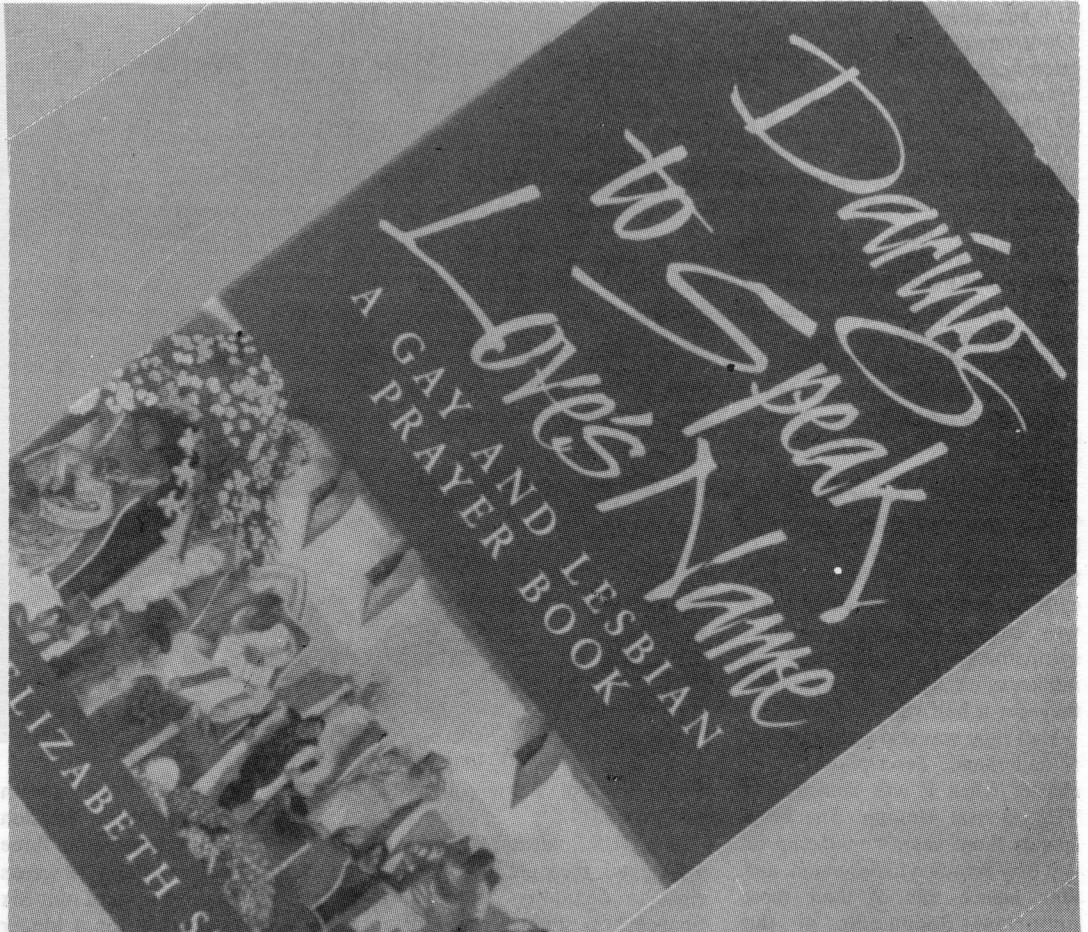
What do Imperial College Students think about the recently released prayer book for gays and lesbians? David Spooner and Tanya Nizam canvass our views.

A few months ago, a prayer book for same-sex couples entitled 'Daring to speak Love's Name' acquired for itself some notoriety with its publishing. To say that the church is divided over this issue would perhaps overstate its schismatic properties, as it became rather overshadowed by the ordination of women priests, but discord at least, is evident. The Archbishop of Canterbury recently declared, in effect, his personal enmity to the book which formally brings God into the Gay community. Opposition from within the church has declared its unreserved support for a publication so necessary as a declaration of the universal love of God for his or her own sex.

With the blessing (sic) of the Bishop of Durham, amongst other notable clergymen and women, the book has aroused considerable media interest. Felix sent its most sympathetic and sensitive reporter to uncover the reason behind the outrage and, indeed, to discover if there is outrage behind the reason.

There is, among its supporters, a definite opinion that before the Prayer-book was published, the gay community was effectively restrained from ceremony because the church would not accept that the Bible could apply to them, thus denying them, by implication, the right to participate in the belief of a christian god. There are also accusations from the opposite side, of secularism, of 'protesting too much', of promoting their special status as if distinct from society; the list of accusation and counter-accusation is endless. It is no longer relevant to ask how the church will deal with this issue, as we have history to tell us of schism, pope and antipope, Torquemada, Jesus Christ, and so on. Orthodox meets Radical, vice versa, and gods get confused. The book, the love, the honesty and a silly pseudo-religious word like enlightenment. These are the issues.

The book contains chapters concerning a celebration of Coming Out, Partings, and the Death of Friends; most consist of Psalms,



Passages, and Verse written by the author and other gay christians. I found literally several people willing to talk about the issues; Tina thought the book was necessary, and was a needed affirmation of spiritual identity to those at whom the book is aimed, although John disputed that it would have any real effect on the church's approach to its gay followers. Andy responded in a similar fashion, with the comment that gay ceremony is recognized by neither the law or the General Synod, and Gareth thought there was no specific need for the book, as relevant passages could be found already in the Bible, and that there were a number of cases of sympathetic priests performing ceremonies for gay couples. Both Rachel and David focused on the need to bring attention to the public, as the church refused to

acknowledge homosexual and lesbian relationships between practicing Christians. I might yet remark that the church may find 'the Love that dare not speak its name' gaining its voice, and gathering its courage. When asked later of Doctor David Jenkins' reference to 'Homophiles', and his comments in the foreword regarding sexuality in a genital-specific sense, John said that a limited word such as 'homosexual' could be responsible for much negativity. 'Homophile', with its reference to emotional love, is a positive name; however, John disagreed that gays had been denied love and emotion as part of their necessary vocabulary. Nearly everyone asked concurred regarding the limitations and negativism of the word 'homosexual', and the need for new

terminology.

Although responses to questioning were generally of a positive nature, John asserted that public familiarity with the book would reinforce and polarise opinion, creating violent antipathies and equally violent sympathies. All agreed that their opinions would probably not change, but become more extreme in nature.

I am a non-christian, non-gay sympathiser; I found this book moving, intense and passionate. This is by Rebecca Lewin, from 'Partings'.

...I'm not ready to have lost her, and I can't say to the world,

Help me, I am divorced, I am divorced!

They would not even believe we had ever been married.'

An-NUS Horribilis

Declan Curry takes a look at the NUS students' charter and sees an organisation fighting for its life

If it has achieved nothing else, the Government's fetish for voluntary membership has caused the National Union of Students (NUS) to take a hard, introverted look at itself. Last week saw the NUS picking up its entrails, reheating them in a pot, and serving them as the *potage de jour*. In an eventful Wednesday, the organisation launched its much leaked students' charter. Of more significance, it also held the first meeting of its newly formed National Council, the very body set up to circumvent the loony excesses of the Winter Conference. One in the eye for the Trots, that.

The Students' Charter was bound to receive most publicity, not least because it was leaked to the *Times* the week before. Well, the *Times* calls it a leak. The NUS say that it was 'strategically placed' with a sympathetic journalist and an influential newspaper. Well, at least they got it half right.

Half right was also an overheard, if underhand, description of the charter when it was launched at TUC House. Hmm. The NUS spends three years convincing us that they are not a trades union, and then launch one of their most important documents at the headquarters of the Trades Union Congress. 'Holloway Road (the site of the NUS headquarters building) isn't big enough,' said a spokeswoman. 'We're expecting over 100 people for the launch'. In the end, no more than 25 people were in the room. Pass that shotgun a bit closer to your foot, there.

For an educational document, no one with a distinct educational background was invited. William Waldergrave, Minister for the Citizen's Charter and Whitehall's paperclip convenor, got an invitation for the launch and used it to test his shredder. The three politicians who did turn up were Mark Fisher, Labour's junior Citizen's Charter spokesman, and Matthew Taylor, Citizen's Charter spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, so fairly junior as well. The third politician was Dermot Keohe, the NUS Vice President for



The old NUS, sit ins, marches and over paid sabbaticals.

Education. As I said, no educational background.

The NUS Students' Charter had 10 'rights'; the right to access, the right to flexibility, the right to finance for study, the right to accommodation, the right to learner agreements, the right to extra-curricular facilities, the right to good teaching, the right to representation, the right to complaint and appeal, and the right to reward.

These rights were to be enshrined by the key recommendations, detailed in the box. Dermot Keohe said that the recommendations were student centred, with 'quality and choice as a priority'. It was, no doubt, a desire for choice which led to the NUS to 'come out' in favour of semesterisation.

Under semesterisation, the academic year has two 'teaching units' or terms. Each term is of fifteen weeks, and is known as a semester. Semesterisation is being examined by almost every university in the country, and some have already proposed semesterisation of one type or

another. King's College London and University College London have started to implement three terms, the first two being 12 weeks long, with a third term of only six weeks. This allows for a longer revision period, and shortens the usually ineffective summer term.

The University of Stirling and Liverpool John Moores University have two 15 week semesters, with each semester lying either side of Christmas. The first semester starts in early September, and, after a five or six week holiday, the second semester begins in early February, ending in mid May. The Universities involved say that their scheme allows a summer study scheme to be developed. The Northern Universities Interim Programme proposes two twelve week teaching semesters, each being followed by a three week assessment period. This allows the first semester to straddle the Christmas break, as the first assessment period takes place after the holiday.

One of the criticisms of semesterisation is that it could lead

to 'fast track' degrees, that is students finishing their courses in two years. This innovation would, of course, rock the academic world to its very foundations, and would end educational civilisation as it has been known for over 40 years. Yet the unthinkable has happened in that bastion of free enterprise, the (private) University of Buckingham, prop. M Thatcher, Baroness. In a career move from First Lord of the Treasury to Chancellor of the University, the good lady has the dubious pleasure of presiding over a three semester year, that is September to January, February to May, and May to August. Be warned. Our own educational bastion, Imperial College plc, is looking at a possible introduction of semesterisation. Given that the great Cashier, Sir Eric Ash, once said that courses should start at eight in the morning, it is not beyond the bounds of reason that we could see something similar. Unless you believe the Union president, Chris Davidson. In a recent note to Imperial College Union Council, the kilted one wrote

Those NUS Recommendations

- Students should be able to negotiate their own interim targets for learning through a learner agreement.
- Establishment of an Educational Ombudsperson.
- Establishment of the principle that students should receive financial redress.
- Three 15-week terms per

year with students having the option of which two they attend.

- Students to have the right of access to information about themselves, their courses, institutions and the educational system as a whole.
- Publication of all relevant information and student

feedback

- Students to receive a record of achievement.
- Credits to be awarded for student union or community work.
- All teachers in further and higher education to possess a teaching qualification.
- A standardised appeals

procedure to cover all institutions.

- Wednesday afternoon and Saturday mornings to remain free for recreational and sporting activities.
- Collective student input into institutional decision making via student unions.

'the likelihood is that nothing will be the verdict and that if change is recommended it will be rejected by the Board of Studies, so don't panic'.

It is surprising that, of all the models available, the NUS has plumped for that which offers all year teaching. Not that they would advocate such a development, though. They have just pinched the Buckingham idea, and modified it so that students have the choice of which two of the three terms they wish to study. Perhaps it was this display of craft which moved the *Times* to note 'the students' union is at last coming up with good ideas'.

Did they mean that financial redress for students was also a good idea? Admittedly this is one of the mainstays of the Government's contagious Charter bandwagon, and it seems reasonable for the late payment of grants. 'Students should receive the equivalent of the interest they could have received on the value of the grant for every day that the grant is late,' they say. Or indeed some compensation for the interest charged while running up enormous debts while waiting for the damned thing. Some Imperial students were still waiting for this term's grant when I spoke to them last week.

But how far does this compensation lark go? On IC Radio, Dermot Keohe said that students should receive compensation for 'inadequate' accommodation. Whilst we all know that Holloway Road is not a nice area to slum in, Mr Keohe had some difficulty in deciding what inadequate accommodation was. Eventually he came up with an ingenious definition. 'Not Butlins'.

If you were looking for an honorary degree in rugby or

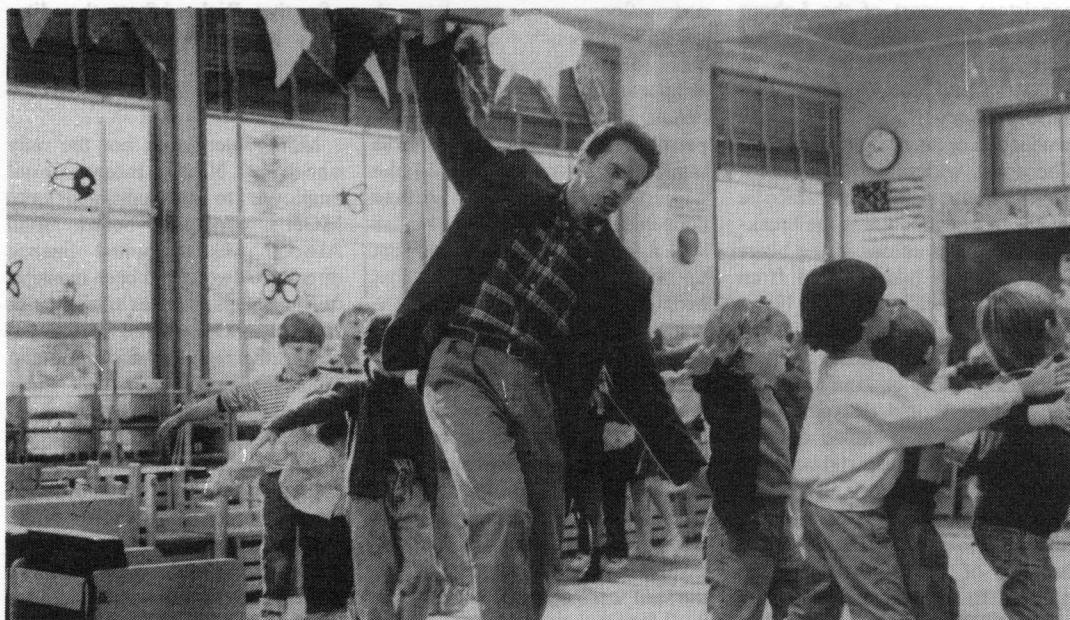
minibus driving, then the call for 'credits for student union or community work' was just for you. If you wanted a degree of any description, you were unlikely to be cheered by the insistence on 'all teachers in further and higher education to possess a teaching qualification'. If you wanted, you could make up your own degree, with an individually tailored 'learner agreement'. 'Students are often uncertain of the relevance of specific courses to their needs,' reads the document. This is especially true after graduation, or at any stage in the Department of Computing. 'We need to begin with an analysis of a student's needs, not what teachers want to teach. Students should be able to negotiate their own interim targets for achievements, concentrating on a students' needs and progress'. What if your options are changed mid-course, like in Biology at the end

of last year? The document calls for students to have the right to redress should the institution fail to deliver their side of the learner agreement. 'This should make institutions think twice,' it adds as an interesting aside.

All this causes some wonderment. Why the fuss? The Government is due to publish its own further and higher education charter, though not now until the New Year. The 'Citizen's Charter First Report', recently published, proudly boasts that this piece of paper will give students, employers and the wider community 'the right to information about what is on offer and about its quality. The Charters may cover such matters as quality assessment of courses, membership of student unions and the setting of standards for services such as the timely and correct payment of grants and loans.' Something borrowed, something

blue.

The NUS says that earlier charters have not involved the client group. 'The Parent's Charter was not written by parents, nor was the Patient's Charter written by patients. Students want a say in any students' charter'. Any other reasons? Why not take a look at what Lorna Fitzsimons, NUS President, said to the NUS National Council on the same day as the charter launch. 'Aside from the threat to student unions represented by current Government proposals, NUS also suffers from more deep seated problems. Students, student unions and the wider public all have difficulty in understanding the NUS. A perception exists that NUS is poor at providing information on services.' Ah. Merry Christmas, NUS. Rest in Peace.



NUS, strangely out of place in education's new world order

Minion Manages Mirror

Shock, Horror, Exclusive! Is Rupert Murdoch trying to take over what is left of Fleet Street? Mimi Chakraborty looks into the reflecting glass of the last Labour supporting tabloid.

'Mirror Mirror on the wall, who owns the most newspapers of us all?' If David Montgomery—new Chief Executive of Mirror Newspapers—were to ask that question while shaving one morning, then it's likely that his mirror might reply 'Why Dave, your old boss Rupert Murdoch, of course'.

This previous intimacy was not lost on *Daily Mirror* staff, who threatened an all-out strike on hearing of Montgomery's appointment to the three-man executive team whose brief was to streamline MGN into a saleable property after the chaos and confusion left in the wake of Robert Maxwell's untimely death.

Montgomery (43), whose fourteen years in newspapers include eleven working for Rupert Murdoch's News International, and whose previous editorships include *Today* and the *News of the World*, was voted onto the board in a high level coup, without the prior consultation of the Editor Richard Stott, or any of his senior staff.

Fears that Montgomery would use his executive powers to attack, rather than defend the *Mirror's* consistent support of the Labour Party and the Trade Unions, led staff and journalists to vote to boycott any cooperation with Montgomery, and to cease production of the next day's edition. There was widespread mistrust of Montgomery, particularly since he had been instrumental in the break-up of the print unions in the bitter dispute which had resulted from Murdoch's decision to take News International to Wapping in 1986. Staff who had previously worked for Montgomery at *Today* or *The News of the World*, described him unflatteringly as a 'failed editor', who was 'notoriously right-wing'. Montgomery as Editor of *Today*, had, in 1989, urged *Today* readers to boycott sales of the *Daily Mirror*, because of its Northern Ireland policy. In return, the *Mirror's* political editor Joe Haines described Montgomery as 'a liar, a hypocrite,



a bigot and a pornographer'. Such acrimony meant they were never going to be friends, and Haines subsequently resigned on hearing of Montgomery's appointment.

Daily Mirror staff refused to go back to work unless certain assurances were met by the executive, specifically that there would be no redundancies and no compromise on editorial policy.

However, mutiny on the news room floor came too late. A delegation of senior editors and staff sent to Sir Robert Clark, the temporary chairman of MGN on behalf of the banks, were not permitted to see him. Some three hours later, after a vote on the newsroom floor to refuse cooperation had been carried by 238 to 4, a further delegation was sent up again, only to be told that Montgomery was already on the board. The executive vote was carried by 3 to 2. It was left to editor Richard Stott to negotiate between the newsroom and the boardroom, shuttling to and fro trying to secure an assurance that the demands of the staff would be met. Eventually some seven hours later Stott secured a list of assurances from Montgomery, that the staff were able to accept 'I have definitely got no plans for job cuts in editorial departments, nor has the

board considered any...the editorial independence of our newspapers will be preserved and vested in the editors...I will never sack an editor...the editors in all titles remain in their positions.'

It must have been quite a bit of a puzzle then for MGN staff to work out how, within a month of his appointment Montgomery had fired Bill Hegarty, editor of sister paper *The People*, and a few days after that, Richard Stott, the editor who had been instrumental in bringing together staff and executive, was himself 'persuaded to resign'.

Montgomery was not the only one-time News International employee to be appointed onto MGN's executive board. John Alwood was appointed finance director. Alwood had been manager of Murdoch's finances at his British Newspaper Operations, for a period during the eighties before moving to Sky television. In fact there seemed to be a quiet one-man-went-to-mow style accumulation of ex-Murdoch placemen insinuated into key positions at MGN in order to bring about the October 27th executive 're-shuffle'. Perhaps predictably, both the incoming editors had served time at the Sun, a fact cheerfully reported by Kelvin McKenzie's gleeful leader, pointing

out 'they used to work for US, so they can't be loony lefties'. This may have done little to cheer up Mirror hacks concerned about their paper's political allegiance.

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, a certain paranoia might greet such a gathering of the clans of ex-Murdoch men. (Notably one 'ex' since they started work at MGN). It might be argued though, that this could be wholly circumstantial. Such is the monopoly of News International over British Newspapers that there are few tabloid journalists who can claim never to have worked for Rupert Murdoch at all. It also should be stated that far from claiming to be a Machiavellian style Prince of Darkness, Murdoch is just a man who 'owns a lot of newspapers'. And why does he own them? 'I sell Newspapers to make money'. That's fair enough, Rupe, no surprises there.

What is a surprise though, is that David Montgomery should be elected at all, and the questions which beg to be answered are by whom, and for what purpose?

The weight behind the new appointments comes from the banks who now own MGN. Specifically the National Westminster bank and Morgan Grenfell who between them control more than 56% of the stock. Having lent Robert Maxwell money for his various business schemes, the banks had taken shares as collateral. When, after his death, MGN's finances collapsed the banks seized the shares and became MGN's owners. They appointed John Talbot of Arthur Andersen to administrative MGN's affairs.

Talbot's chief brief was to streamline MGN and to cut away much of the profligate spending which had characterised Maxwell's reign. His challenge was to cut costs, get the share price up and become more commercial. The banks went to sell their shares in MGN, but not too soon at too low a price. The decision to install a new team at the helm sends a clear signal that the group will not be

open to predatory bids in the short-term, and will not be properly saleable for about a year. This effectively scuppers prospective bids made by Conrad Black and M J Heinz who had expressed acquisitive interest in MGN shortly after Robert Maxwell's death.

Notably absent from the speculators at this time was News International. Rupert Murdoch had spent a year between December 1990 and 1991 clawing his way back from the brink of bankruptcy, facing debts of up to \$8.1 billion. The threat of any of up to 146 different creditors foreclosing on his loans and forcing him to pay up threatened the absolute collapse and subsequent liquidation of his News International Empire.

When Robert Maxwell's death was announced in November 1991 Murdoch had just secured the safety of his lines of credit, raised the \$1.5 billion necessary to prevent a full scale buy-out and had successfully merged his massively loss making Sky satellite transmission network with its rival British Satellite Broadcasting, and was using the profits from his newspaper sales to offset BSkyB's losses, and beginning to show an overall profit. However, a series of terrifying climb-back's from over the edge had left News Corps in a still delicate state, not ready to consider further acquisition.

By 1993, however, this state of affairs might certainly have changed. Were News, say, to consider buying MGN in a year's time, they would be elegantly poised to do so, inconvenienced further by substantive 'interior decorating' carried out courtesy of Messrs Montgomery, Banks, Alwood et al.

It is disturbingly characteristic of News International to force executive and editorial appointments which are directly contrary to the papers tone and style, and the choice of the staff themselves. It has been a feature of each of the editorships of Murdoch flagship papers *The Sun*, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. When in 1986 Murdoch moved the printing presses out to his newly constructed walled-in, barbed wired, union-proof fortress Wapping, journalists were given the ultimatum 'cross the picket line or be fired'. Those who did not comply were shown no mercy, and others left of their own accord because they could not tolerate such shabby treatment. From the *Sunday Times* alone, nearly a third of its journalists left, were fired, or resigned.

It is not wholly implausible to



suggest that perhaps MGN is being sculpted specifically for a Murdoch/Montgomery acquisition, perhaps sometime in the next year, and it would be hard to question that there would have to be a pre-arrangement with the banks on this account, and that that would be the most reasonable explanation for their appointing Montgomery in the face of such strenuous opposition. If this is indeed the case, then where does it leave the identity of the *Mirror*? If Rupert Murdoch becomes an owner of MGN will the newspapers be able to remain unchanged?

Even before it is a political organ, a newspaper is a commercial one, and The MGN's papers are no exception. *The Daily Mirror* and the *Sun* are the two fiercest competitors in the tabloid circulation wars, and differ mainly

in their opposite political ideologies. The people who buy the *Mirror* do so because they seek a Labour party supporter, and a paper with a left-wing bias. No executive whatever its own philosophy would risk changing a paper so much that it lost its customer appeal. It's unlikely that MGN newspapers would cease to be vocal supporters of the Labour Party through the next election. What may be a result though is that because the executive has pruned away, not just the editorship, but other leader writers too, they won't encourage new writers to be as incisive as their predecessors were, that in becoming more commercial and saleable they will become lightweight.

MGN's unique character lies in the fact that they have consistently set a different political agenda from that of a range of Tory tabloids.

Mixed up with the Soap & Royals stories, they have been responsible for aggressive investigative stories, unpopular with the government of the time, notably pursuing the cases of the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six at a time when they were not picked up by other papers. It is just this kind of story that might find itself a casualty of a new management, whose token support of the *Mirror's* traditional stance sadly fails to look beyond the ledger and who's own political agenda is quite different.

It is too early to say exactly who will come to own Mirror Group Newspapers, but the line of dominoes has been arranged to temptingly lead to Murdoch and Montgomery, that is the time ever comes, all it will take is one little push.

Money, Money, Money...

The Finance Society is a relatively new and growing society at Imperial College and exists for those of you who want to increase your grasp of the key concepts, issues and terminology used in the world of finance, business and investment.

The Society's main objective is to find as many stimulating ways of doing this as possible. Since the launch of the Society we have gone from 0 to 370 members in a mere two years. Even if this does appear to overheat our fledgling clerical apparatus and create the odd spot of chaos at times, we have still managed to become arguably the largest and fastest growing society at IC. We want the society to be alive and evolving and so we would like plenty of feedback from members about possible events.

During the course of this term we have maintained an average of just over one event per week held on various topics ranging from accountancy to merchant banking and we do boast an average attendance of ninety people per event.

Despite our achievements we are not sitting on our laurels, as we feel there are a great many budding

financial geni who have not joined our society, so get moving, now!

We're not here to preach and convert you from engineers and scientists to grossly overpaid financial wizards, our objective is simple, it is to educate you, the student community of IC, about the world of finance.

Earlier I mentioned the large variety of events we have held this term, you may ask 'What events?'. Well those of you who are members would have regularly received the Society newsletter which listed the events of the next few weeks in advance. Anyway, coming back to the point, the events kicked off with the free cheese and wine party which was attended by over 150 people (bunch of boozers!) as well as the very successful presentation by Andersen Consulting on Management Consultancy, it too was widely attended and let me say that the free buffet (at a cost of £6 a head) had absolutely nothing to do with it. The most interesting event of the term was (especially for you job seekers) the Interview Skills Workshop by Sharon Hewes from Touche Ross which was repeated (due to popular demand) and attracted a total of one hundred and

fifty of you. The workshop focused on common follies made and gave an insight into the evil mind of the interviewer. Future events scheduled for next term include a visit to the Dealing floor at BZW and an Insight into the Stock Exchange by a prominent representative of the London Exchange and many others.

'What else?', you may ask, well for the literate amongst you, we have produced a magazine 'Capital'. This was distributed at the Freshers' Fair. The magazine contains articles about many crucial aspects of finance, written at an introductory but non-trivial level. For those of you who have a copy, I'm sure it provided many stimulating hours of reading, however if you missed the first issue we expect the launch of the second issue on the first day of the spring term. To complement Capital, we have also set up a College-wide subscription service for the Financial Times. The service is

available only through the Finance Society which has access to heavily discounted copies of the FT at 12p a day (a fifth of the publisher's price). These will be available to all subscribers at the Union bookshop as of the beginning of next term. Interested? For further details drop Lucille Ankrah (Maths II) a note via the pigeonholes or speak to anyone on the committee.

Finally for those of you who fancy being part of this society and enjoy teamwork and meeting people from a variety of business environments, maybe you should then consider joining the committee in the coming elections to be held on February 16th 1993. Otherwise come along anyway to elect the committee of your choice.

P.S. Look out for our pension fund scheme set up with the aid of our financial adviser Robert Maxwell, before he went for a swim.

Salman Ali.

Board club

For our second weekend away, we had decided to venture a little further. Approximately 755.3kms (there and back) to the sheep infested countryside of Gower in Wales.

The trip started well when nine people turned up ready to go instead of the expected eight. It made the trip cheaper, and less comfortable in the back of the van, I am reliably informed. The six hour journey was uneventful apart from a roof rack strap breaking and Alaric losing to Rob at 'Bash and Crab'—serious brain damage.

The other half of our group arrived before us and nicked the best chalet and all the local 50p's—who needs electricity? They did however bring beer, a Sega Megadrive, a video and videos (about sacrificing Mars Bars to the Wind God—weird!). After a quick round of 'Worm against Human' we went to bed ready for Saturday's big winds.

There was no wind, not even enough to disperse a fart. Undeterred we hit the beach in true 'Home & Away' style with our surf boards. Surf's up dude! But none of us managed to do it standing up! Later the wind picked up and so we raced the land surfers. The old boys

eventually thrashed us. That evening whilst Fat Bastard Alaric cooked dinner it got winnndy. Dan was fantasising about his Alto and 4.4m sq rig. Everyone agreed an early night would be a good idea, fortunately you don't always do the sensible thing.

Again there was NO wind, but we still went to the beach and waited and waited, for the promised gales. Everyone had a good sail and the small waves provided an unusual challenge for most. Half an hour before we were due to leave the wind arrived. Alex and myself had an excellent sail whilst everyone else loaded the van—thank you.

An hour later we met Rob who had sneaked away for a night of passion, decent food and constant electricity, but he did lend us his stereo. It was another superb weekend and we are all sorry Julia couldn't make it—we really missed her!!!! Thanks again for driving, Daniel—I'm really sorry 'you missed the six foot waves and force six wind at the other beach, I guess you made up for it last Wednesday! If you would like to learn the way of the windsurfer meet us Tuesdays at 1pm in Southside Upper lounge.

Winesoc

The Macallan 'War of the Noses' University Malt Taster Competition took place at IC on Wednesday 2nd November. The event was hosted by ICU's own Wine Tasting Society and featured four teams of expert (!) 'nosers', from the universities of Bath, Bristol, Cambridge and, of course, us here at Imperial!

A highly informative slide show served as a warm up before the actual nosing took place. The task was to correctly guess, sorry, recognise the region and actual distillery of five anonymous malt whiskies (there are only four regions but over 100 distilleries).

This having been accomplished (quite a long process of sniffing sipping the whiskies—well, you had to have another taste just to make sure!), Macallan then offered a few 'wee drams' of their product to help us relax, before subjecting us to a distinctly dodgy animated video of the Macallan process. After this (and some more drams of the malt!), we completed the Team Challenge quiz, on all aspects of the whisky industry, and the awaited

the results—with the help of some more Macallan, of course!

Bath won the Team challenge, and the prize of a case of Macallan ten year old, but the real star of the day was Imperial's Martin Pocock, who correctly named all five regions and three of the distilleries and goes on to the National Final in London early next year! This performance was particularly impressive given that the runner-up, Cambridge's Wine Soc President, won this heat last year and then went on to come runner-up in the final.

In the end a good time was had by all, generous quantities of whisky disappeared and we all look forward to next year, when we at Imperial shall have our revenge—and that case of whisky!

Remember ICU Wine Tasting Society meets every Tuesday at 6pm in the Union Building all next term, membership is not necessary and a tasting will cost about £4. Watch out for details of forthcoming tastings on posters and in Felix. See you there!

Surf/bike/hike/???

We climbed, walked, biked and drank for three weeks in The Dolomites, northern Italy. The atmosphere was 'holiday' not 'expedition' so we camped near to small towns with pubs and daytripped to Venice. Five out of thirteen of us brought mountain bikes. Everyone who wanted to ride borrowed one.

Next year's summer tour will be to the Pennine Alps, near the Matterhorn. We also have weekend trips to Snowdonia and other hilly places. Christmas tour, 2nd-9th January will be to the Cairngorms, Scotland. See us in Southside Upper

Lounge, where we eat most lunchtimes.

Climbing, biking, surfing, canoeing, skiing, abseiling, bridge jumping, the Outdoor Club will try anything. Last term we had filled the places on our action packed weekends a fortnight in advance. You must confirm your place on the preceeding Thursday or Friday. See us at 12.30pm in Southside Upper Lounge where we eat every weekday except Thursday, when we are meeting in Biology W3. Other events are planned. They will be posted on our noticeboard under Beit Arch. Meet there for weekends at 5.30pm

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| January | |
| Thurs 14th | 12.30 |
| | 7.30 |
| 22nd-24th | |
| Thurs 29th | 12.30 |
| February | |
| 6th-7th | |
| Thurs 11th | 12.30 |
| | 7.30 |
| 19-21st | |
| Tues 23rd | 7.30 |
| March | |
| Weds 3rd | |
| Thurs 11th | 12.30 |
| | 7.00 |

Christmas Tour—see what happened to us in the Cairngorms
Stores Dinner—big nosh up in Richard's dungeon
Stanton Bridge in the Lake District
Butty eating contest. Butties must be at least one inch thick

Tryfan, North Wales
Guest Speaker
Wine Tasting 5
Ambleside, Lakes
Pancake Party, bring-a-filling

If you want power, fame, a union expenses account, then you could sign up on our noticeboard for next year's committee.
Photo competition—bring your best and your worst
Mongolian BBW. Yak!



| | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| 12th-14th | | Barges, canals, locks, piracy, waterflights, bridge jumping... |
| Thurs 18th | 12.30 | AGM—The Big Vote |
| Thurs 25th | 12.30 | Chairman's Review. A round up of this year by His Majesty |
| 27th-3rd | | Easter tour to Glencoe, Scotland |
| May | | |
| 7th-9th | | Annual Dinner, Derbyshire |
| 11th-13th | | Cornwall. Surf, climb or sunbathe |
| June-July | | |
| | | Summer Tour to the Pennine Alps, The Matterhorn. There are walking, climbing and skiing routes of all standards. This is a holiday, not an expedition. North Face rock climbs for the suicidal. |

Phil Wickens, Bio PG, Chairman 071-701 7108

Sexy legs and mountain goats

If getting yourself into tight corners, putting your foot in it and balancing on narrow ledges is what you're good at then the club for you is the Mountaineering Club without a doubt.

Every other weekend off we goeth in search of rock resembling anything from Xmas Curry to Sexy Legs, and we haven't been disappointed yet!

We travel far and wide. Our first call of the wild took us to Tremadoc in North Wales where we grudgingly slept in ultimate luxury in the bothy directly under the cliffs and opposite the café, although the rain and sheep could be endured no more by Saturday night (when we resorted to a very Cymru-ish local inn with Gladiators and pool table, complete with resident opponent, to keep our vertical tendencies

consoled). Plenty of adrenaline was circulated by all levels of climber, on routes such as Plum and The Fang.

Stannage and Froggit in the Peak District was one up on Tremadoc in that the sheep prevailed but the rain didn't. We camped (but don't tell the National Trust) just a mile or so from the limestone wall (and less from the pub). Sarah is not too proud to admit that she led her first Diff. (—the type of route you can do with a zimmer frame) even though Ali and Amos (otherwise known as Flex and Reach) did hoist their way up various extremes and Martin did a triple backwards flip on a Hard Very Severe with no trouble at all. Climbs attempted were Broken Crack, Three Pebble Slab (which apparently doesn't live up to its name) and Diamond Crack,

which doesn't either. Croak-an-oil, which scales its way up a pinnacle, was also one under the belt.

Croyde in North Devon delivered rain but no sheep. Instead the most wicked cream teas you could ever imagine. Just a brief drive from the campsite (which incidentally was a mere 100m from the bar) and a short walk along the headland and voila!—as far as I'm concerned the best climbing yet. Brilliant abseils, enjoyable ascents just metres above the crashing waves and some amazing sunsets can really take your mind off the fact that the tide is coming in! Dan can now be ultra-smug that he led and survived Kinky Boots (a Very Severe route) which involved a rather tricky traverse across a wide Crevasse. Sarah, on the other hand, can now feel inadequate due to her inability

to do the simultaneous one arm pull and olympic long jump necessary for the first manoeuvre (feeble me!) after she had managed to persuade Dan to go first!

Camping in Swanage last weekend did leave better weather to be desired for the next trip to Cornwall over the weekend of 11-13th December. Anyone interested in going should see the club noticeboard opposite the climbing wall near the JCR, or meet club members on Tuesday evenings, after 9pm, in Southside Upper Lounge). However the gang can give themselves a pat on the back for successfully traversing a skittle alley and stone wall and also for the skittle balancing feats that they can now perform with ease.

Sarah Wingrove.

Singles

Jesus Jones-Devil You Know

Beyond any shadow of a doubt, this is the best record of all time. Yep, it's even more important than my whole life, and that's certainly true. I love the Jeez; remember them doing the Big World Of Bollox Cafe thing, with Buzzsaws and chainsaws? that were great, that were. Liked 'International Bright Young Thing', too. Apparently, they're doin' MEGA-BUCKS stateside now. Lucky buggers.

The record, sounding suspiciously like a cover of a well-known Kylie track, sounds mysteriously brilliant to boot, and is in fact, a marvellous slice of post-punk funk chunky-geetar rock for landlubbers and people with a kittenish love for the lobster telephone. Get this; it's time to get your ears sheared off.

Peb & the Diamante Devil

●Out on December 29th on Food/EMI, from the album 'Perverse', out January 25th. *Jesus Jones* will be touring in March.

Frank & Walters—After All

EP5! EP6! *The Frank and Walters* release a double CD set just too late for buying for your Dad for Christmas. What bastards. It would have made a lovely Christmas present. Both CDs feature 'After All', remixed from the album, a lovely Franksome lovesong. I love it. It's marvellous. Also on CD1 are 'The Day Before The World Ended', 'The Turquoise Gardens', a very strange song, and a live version of the old favourite 'Michael'. Indeed. But the real treats lie on CD2. Oh Yes they do. The Franks run through studio versions of all their live covers, 'Love Is In The Air', that old chestnut, in a completely Ballroom free style, 'I'm A Believer', from 'Ruby Trax', and 'Funky Cold Medina'. Behind you. What's more, you can confuse your record shop by ordering one or the other as they've both got the same catalogue number: HO OCD4. What fun. What jolly japes. What further excuse do you need to buy it?

Lise Yates

●Out on December 29, on Setanta/Go! Discs. *The Frank & Walters* support *Carter* at Brixton on December 21.

Suzanne Vega—Blood Makes Noise

Has 'industrial clanging' all the way through, the equivalent of the north, but presumably Pittsburgh-type thing (—sad to hear of Factory's demise).

Strangely mysterious, but typical Vega ramblings, actually I don't understand the relevance of any of the lyrics. It claims 'Tom's Diner' on the flipside, but is actually 'Neighbourhood Girls'—get it right!

It leaves me relatively apathetic, but it's cool and I like it.

Lucas.

●Out now on A&M.

David Gray-Birds Without Wings

Who? Slap it on and have a listen anyway!

So I did, wow! Urban folk music. Nice to see the artform isn't dead, but as an exponent, David Gray is merely competent. He's got a good voice, and three good songs, but to shine in this style you require a real spark. Unfortunately, he's not good enough to stand out.

Billy Bragg or Bob Dylan he's not, but certainly worth a listen if this is your thing.

Glyph

The House of Love-Crush Me

Not new material this (recorded about a year ago, actually), so an unusual release. 'Crush Me' is fairly quiet: Guy Chadwick moaning again, about his girlfriend, of course. It's a quality track, but not of fantastic attention grabbing value.

'Into The Tunnel', on the flipside, is totally outstanding. Combining the best aspects of the band to produce something dark and tortured that we haven't seen from them for a while. I was stunned by it, frankly. I'm glad they've finally got a grip; let's hope this means they've stopped mutating into Airhead (*They're Shit-ed*).

Glyph

●Out now on Fontana/Polygram. Available in numerous varied formats.

Freaky Realistic—Something New/Cosmic Love Vibes

I had it on 45 instead of 33 and it sounded like badly produced techno...

Realising my stupid mistake, it wasn't as good as I thought it would be, those piano breaks I've heard a zillion times before, and the feel sucks. Unforgivable. The flipside is more accommodating and more vibrant, but there could've been more funky bass and less of the love, peace and harmony stuff, the singing is sub-standard, but the brief rapping is right on, man.

When I first read about them, I liked their overall concept of 'Frealism': '...either being too freaky or too realistic, and without bringing the two together you just don't get anywhere.', in fact they go nowhere, possibly only to the outer reaches of oblivion. It's a shame 'cos I appreciate the philosophy and was convinced I'd like it.

I should've left it on 45, that way it would've ended quicker.

Lucas.

●Out now.

Alice in Chains—World

This is an average song, one that you might start singing to yourself as you think about what she said the other time whilst walking along South Kensington subway. It has an odd combination of an Ozzy Osbourne type vocalist singing a sweet dear melody over a thunderous bass line and drum rhythm. When played loud such a noise can be quite effective although generally *Alice in Chains* are just another Seattle grunge band with little originality at all.

Ralph.

●Out in January, on Columbia.



Jesus Jones say 'You don't want to meet us down a dark alley way.'

BMX Bandits-Serious Drugs

The *BMX Bandits* are Scottish. They know *Teenage Fanclub*. Live, they even cover their 'Kylie's Got A Crush On Us'. On this e.p., they cover *Primal Scream's* 'Don't Fight It, Feel It', complete with a massive array of sampled crowd noises. The chorus of the title track goes 'Get some serious drugs' (no possibility of claiming that's about a geezer who they met at a club, is there?). Guess the label? Yes, it's that darling of the indie scene, Creation, and the *BMX Bandits* are a typical Creation band, which makes this record a fine exponent of the genre, and also makes it a totally unsuitable Christmas present for Grandmothers.

Lise Yates

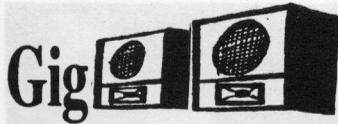
Out now on Creation/Sony

Bivouac—Slack

John Peel faves, *Bivouac* sound as though they come from Seattle. In fact they're a three-piece from Derby. Comparisons with the N-band are perhaps inevitable and yeah, admittedly they do sound a bit like *Nirvana* but who gives a fuck when they make records as good as this. 'Slack', title song is a stormer. A mish-mash of moods that culminates in a mind-blowing climax. 'Toward' is like the calm after the storm, a thoughtful and melancholic affair. Whilst 'Two Sticks' returns to the moods explored on 'Slack'. This is one fuck of a cool record—rush out and buy it now!

Leo.

●On Elemental Records.



**Boo Radleys
-ULU, 5.12.92**

Unfortunately, everything's not alright forever, the Boos live are not as magnificent as they are in the studio. Yet, at moments, the true Boo genius shone through.

During the beginning of the show, the levels were not set correctly, the vocals were too loud,

and the overall beauty of the band was destroyed. This was further accentuated as the band played as a typical four man band, with the vocalist as front man-in the studio, what hits you first are the guitars, horns, strings and other unfathomable delights. These are the backbone, the strength of the Boos' set. The vocals merely accompany these, and in many cases the lyrics are indistinguishable. Placing the vocalist as frontman took away the emphasis of the guitars so the overall sound produced was flat and dull.

The Boos were further

disadvantaged by the fact that not all the instruments appearing on the 'Boo...' eps were used live. Thus the Boos' sound was further weakened. However, for two numbers, they incorporated a horn player into the four piece, and these were probably the best numbers of the night.

The Boo Radleys are a great band, their distinct originality makes them such. Although there was no encore, with more classics such as 'Lazurus', they'll get it right eventually.

Ralph

● 'Lazurus' on Creation.

Pele—Mean Fiddler

So there I was, notebook in hand, waiting for Pele to start. And what happens. On they come, start to play 'Raid The Palace' and my notebook goes flying, never to be seen again. For some reason, the crowd went wild. Can't understand it myself. It can't just be those super catchy tunes, in that raggle-taggle Dexy's style. Can it? Surely not. How could anyone be so superficial? How could a band possibly be any good without a decent techno keyboard sound twiddling through the middle of every song? This band couldn't cut it in the rave scene, know what I'm saying? No? I'm saying they're outstanding, that is what I'm saying.

Lise Yates

● 'Fireworks' on M&G/Polydor.



The Pogues- Curiously divided over the standing/sitting issue.

The Pogues, Pele,-Brixton Academy

Pele come from Liverpool. Pele are like an Irish band, sounding like a cross between the early Waterboys, The Levellers, and, due to an excellent fiddler, Dexy's Midnight Runners. Songs included 'Raid The Palace', dedicated to Charles and Di, in these 'difficult times', a very fast cover of 'I Fought The Law', and the tear-jerking first line of 'Mull Of Kintyre'.

The Pogues were brilliant, although it's the first time I've seen them without Shane. Spider Stacey, the whistle player, sang well, although some of the crowd were calling for Shane throughout the night. Their set was very Christmassy, with tinsel and baubles abounding, and even a small tree (which was stolen straight away). The band themselves did not look full of the Christmas spirit (rather surprisingly) when they came on, but this somewhat surly

stage persona swiftly altered as they began 'Sayonara'. They introduced several new songs all through the night including 'Smell Of Petroleum', 'Once Upon A Time' and 'Tuesday Morning', which to me sounded more like their early records than their last album. The band seemed to hold together much better in the absence of Shane, since they appeared to be a complete unit, not a star and his band.

They played many of their older songs, including 'If I Should Fall From Grace With God', a modified 'Turkish Song Of The Damned', 'Dirty Old Town' and 'Sunny Side Of The Street'. The evening reached it's climax with a loud firework filled 'Fiesta' finale. The lighting crew were so pissed at this point they were totally missing their cues. Personally I thought the random spotlighting added to the song, but there were those amongst us who didn't agree.

Fleur

Albums 

Neil Diamond—The Christmas Album

It was one of the best moments in the history of TOTP. There was Neil, resplendent in a scarlet satin shirt, surrounded by a sea of pre-pubescent girls looking as lost a flock of sheep. What the hell was going on? There was a man, responsible for some of the best songs performed by The Monkees, being publicly humiliated. He does not deserve it. He is wonderful.

This offering from on high is packed to the gills with excellent renditions of Christmas classics. If you buy this for your Mum, tape it. Hold it. Treasure it. So people will try and ridicule you for it. What do they know? They'll be drooling over the latest offering being paraded before the brain dead, talent free zones that constitutes the normal TOTP audience.

A classic of modern times

Peb

● Out now on Columbia.

A Spoonful of Sugar

Good cheer to all fat bastards. Lots of jingle bells, suspicious-looking yule logs, and heaps of warm clothing... of the season to you, dear reader, as diabolical Dave takes you on a festive sleigh ride through Christmas pop, on a dodgy toboggan with no breaks, and be back at the hospital in time for cakes, carol singing, orange squash and any major surgery involving the removal of dangerously psychotic impulses. Get your mufflers on, 'cos here we go!

Troika: Sergei Prokofiev. Conducted by Fritz Reiner.

Always loved this; massively festive piece with delicate but relentless string-pulses, very snowy, and hugely reminiscent of three-wheeled, horse-drawn carriages. Ironic, that last bit. Ripped off by colossally unsexy prog-rock Mother'Ooww! Greg Lake for self righteous and twee 'I believe in Father Christmas'.

'Wonderful World': Nick Cave & Shane MacGowan.

My favourite orthodontologically unsound drunken colonial bastards, ever, join hands to stop each other falling off their stools and, more importantly, spilling their drinks, in order to produce another magnificent 'can't sing for toffee' scenario. I can take anything from these two super nearly-dead fellows.

'A Fairytale of New York': The Pogues with Kirsty MacColl.

One of the loveliest records ever made. Namedrops J P Donleavy, you know. Well-read, I am. Nice references to the New York Police 'singing Galway Bay', and the best romantic sparring in a duet that has ever been sung. I'll miss him when he's dead.

Honorariums to Gary Glitter, Bjorn Again, the Fall, Suede, St Etienne, Joy Division (Factory RIP), ABBA, Curve, Mussorgsky, the Byrds, the Furs and Kate Bush.

And the Award for the worst single of the Year... Temple of Love '92. Because it's the Sisters, and it's a sucker punch. Eldritch shafts his own mythology, in smooth rock formula. Wanker. Did Yootha Joyce die for this?

Book

**Great Flying Stories edited by Fredrick Forsyth**

This is a collection of short stories about, yes, you guessed it, flying. The cover of the book is somewhat deceptive, with 'Frederick Forsyth' in very big letters and 'edited by' in very small letters. Initially I thought that the stories were all by him, and this would have put me off had I seen it in a shop (no disrespect to Forsyth and his writing, but I would not want a book full of his short stories). On looking inside, I found the other authors included Roald Dahl, HG Wells, Edgar Allan Poe and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

With this range of styles, there is bound to be one or two that you will enjoy. My particular favourite was 'Cat' by Richard Bach, who is very keen on flying and owns his own plane. His other novels and short stories have been connected with flying in some way or another.

I think that an interest in aircraft and aviation helps in the enjoyment of this collection, though none of the stories go into the technicalities of flying. I doubt that all the stories

will appeal, but there is probably something for everyone and at £4.99 it is very reasonably priced.

Bland

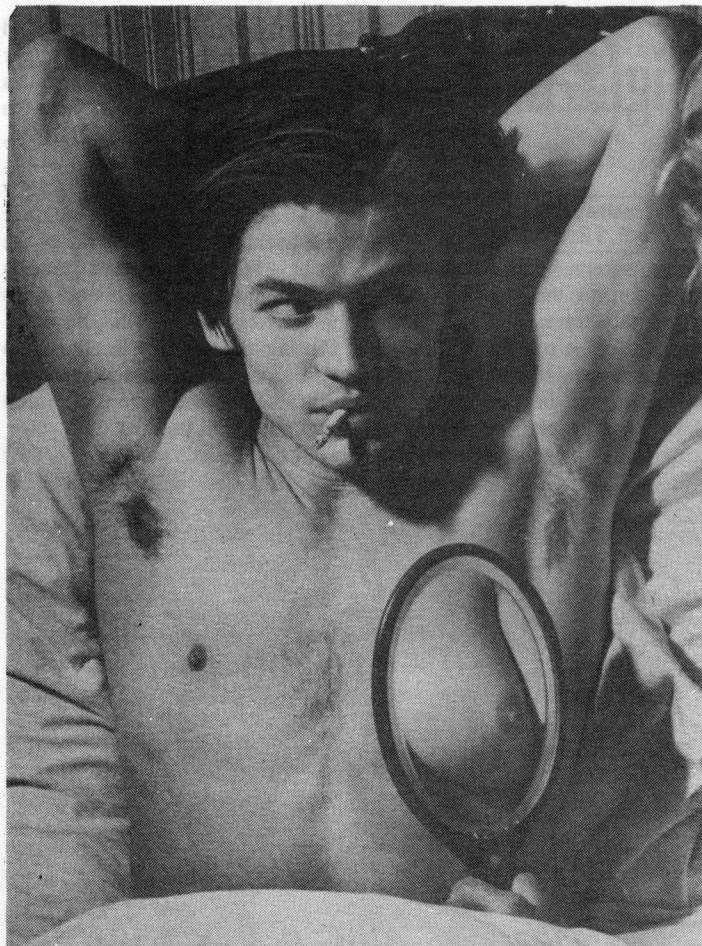
● Published by Corgi
£4.99

Kissing the Gunner's Daughter Ruth Rendell

Having only seen the television versions of Ruth Rendell's previous Inspector Wexford stories, reading one of her novels was not as good as I expected. Ordinarily I enjoy reading mystery and suspense stories, but this was not, as the reviews on the back promised, 'brilliant'.

The story begins with the murder of a detective during a bank robbery, and then moves to a series of deaths at a country estate ten months later. Wexford investigates the later murders and thinks that there is a link with the murder of the detective. Rendell adds a family touch with Wexford's fondness for a 17 year old girl who is the sole survivor of the second series of murders.

Another comment on the back of the book is that 'there is not one superfluous word'. This is my only real criticism of the style of writing - I found that descriptive nature of the story made it very difficult to get into the plot. I prefer the story to move quickly rather than have a



few paragraphs describing the scenery.

Basically, I would suggest that you watch the televised version than read the book, but as it was shown a couple of weeks ago, you won't be able to until the repeats, probably late next year.

Bland

● Published by Arrow Books
£8.99

Witches Abroad by Terry Pratchett

Once upon a time, in a place called the Ramtops (on the Discworld) there were three witches. Well, there were four but one passed on leaving Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick. As it turned out, the youngest and most naive witch (I mean who heard of a witch needing to learn martial arts), was to become a good fairy godmother. Unfortunately for she was to become involved in stories and fairy tales (a very powerful form of magic as it turns out) travelling to foreign parts of the Discworld, in order to create happy endings for these stories. Luckily for her Granny and Nanny went along to help. But remember not all endings are happy.

Well, the story involves wands, pumpkins, voodoo, 'headology', dwarves, pirates, cats and virtually every fairy tale and story that is ever

worth telling. How these stories are interwoven is a touch of genius on Terry Pratchett's side and his sense of humour and wit is, once again, superb. This book gave me a new insight into stories I thought I knew off by heart and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

I suggest you add this experience to your life. For those of you that believe you're probably too mature to read about fairy tales, witches and magic, then I suggest you regress a little and try to enjoy yourselves as well.

GBH

● Published by Corgi, price £3.99

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**20 Runners-up receive a free
copy of the book. Entries
should be in by 15th Jan 1993
at the latest**

SEX**COMING
SOON...**



Film

Mo' Money

This is described as an action-comedy-romance. I normally like them. They are usually rather crap in an 'artistic' sort of way. Nothing really changes does it.

Its about black people and money. That covers the action part covered. For the comedy the brothers involved make everybody around them look like fools. All except for the female interest, who escapes without suffering their one-liners. That's romance.

Damon Wayans (Johnny Stewart) stars. He comes top of the cast list anyway. Nobody really starts, it's a communal effort. Even the inclusion of his brother Marlon (as Johnny's brother, Seymour) fails to inject any spirit into this film. Everything can be described as competent, but to me that is the ultimate insult. If something fails to leave any real impression, be it good, be it dire what is the point of watching it?

Ian



Theatre

Dick Whittington

How do you make the traditional pantomime a million times more enjoyable? Easy, do what the Grace theatre have done and pack it full to the brim with topical humour, a mountain of sexual innuendos and a handful of entertaining songs.

This adults only version is nothing less than a laugh a second as the normal amount of ridiculousness expected of a panto is increased beyond side-splitting proportions. The writer Gerry Marsh deserves an award for originality and the actors and actresses were not only extremely well cast but clearly enjoyed the performance as much as the audience did. There is an increase in the amount of audience participation to the extent that I thought I was as at a Rocky Horror show but this is by no means a put off, if anything, lovers of the Rocky Horror-type atmosphere will love this panto.

If for certain reasons you only intend to see one panto this year, then you must make it this one.

P.J.Dodd

●Grace Theatre, 503 Battersea Park Rd. Box Office 071-228-2620. Mon-Sat 9pm, £7. (Ends Dec 23rd)

Neville Southall's Washbag

Well luvvies, this charming tragicomedy is just an absolutely fabulous story of a man's methodical self-destruction and the effect it has on the sweethearts and darlings in his life. For those sweeties among you who know bugger all about football, Neville Southall was the goalkeeper for the losing side in the 1985 F.A. Cup.

The sweetheart script writer, David Farr, deserves more than the mass of applause that the cast received, (the darling cast, by the way, are adorable). Notable performances are from Penelope, played by Rachel Weisz, whose expressionless face was one of the high spots in the play, and Bill, played by Pete Lee Wilson, who was simply wonderful as he roller-coasted from light-hearted humour to really deep tragedy the next.

To sum up for those luvvies, sweethearts, darlings and angels among you who cannot be bothered to read the whole review, this play is a must for those who are able to appreciate a super script executed marvellously by the cast.

P. Tentious

●Finborough Theatre, 118 Finborough Road. 8pm Mon-Sat Until 19th Dec
Conc. £4

Hamlet

I'm probably one of the few people who has never seen Hamlet before. I suppose it's always useful to have read it since—at least to my inexperienced ears—Shakespearean language is difficult to understand. Anyway, I liked this performance by the Compass Theatre Company, directed by Neil Sissons. Hamlet (Paul Rider) was brilliant and very convincing, as well as the Ghost (Michael Palmer). Polonius was



Neville Southall's Washbag

played by a real comedian, David Westbrook. I was actually sad when Hamlet murdered Polonius because I had been enjoying him so much.

In the whole production, few props were used; sometimes it was rather pantomimic, especially the excellent play in front of Queen and King. The lighting was done very well, using rectangular and horizontal spots with interesting effects, not only in the Ghost scenes but also when Hamlet and Laertes

were fencing. But what I liked best was the Grave-digger bit. The entire cast was standing in the darkened background, rapping together bits of various songs and pieces—absolutely brilliant. But even without this it would certainly have been worth seeing.

Kristina J Vaaler.

●Lillian Baylis, Arlington Way, EC1, Angel tube. Box Office 071-837 4104. Tickets £5-£8.



Hamlet

Theatre

King Lear

I lead my unassuming lamb to lose his maidenhead to Shakespeare. 'And how was it for you?' is the question begged. Enter into a world. The hurdles of language, the foreignness of style, the lurch into unknown corridors of plot: conquered with might, majesty and tenderness. It made a difference; opened a space.

Why say this? Why is this important? Because I wasn't sure who Shakespeare was anymore. Compass Theatre Company are sure. The cast, the director, the designer—they know. And so, now, does one more mortal.

And how was it for me? P. P. P. Powerful and clever and direct and strong. Oh, and such a relief for it to be so good. Quite took me aback.

King Lear. Appear. Be here for all.

Darwen.

● Lillian Baylis Theatre, Arlington Way EC1, Angel Tube. Box Office 071-837 4104. Tickets £5-£8.



King Lear

Concert

The Imperial Symphony Orchestra performed last Friday to a packed Great Hall.

They warmed up with Elgar's 'In the South' a wonderfully extrovert and youthful piece. It is deceptively difficult to play with soaring melodies often supported by filigree passage work, particularly from the violins, who therefore set the pace of the whole piece. The music, void of a deeper meaning is boisterously happy roaming around in a rich and predominantly beautiful and sunny countryside. The mood shifts a great deal, the listener is never bored, gladly contemplating new vistas as they unfold, sometimes darkened by clouds and some local minor drama. The ruling impression is joyful and sunny.

Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor followed that extrovert happy romp in Southern Italy. By their sharp contrast the two works demonstrate the breadth and richness of Elgar's creative spirit. The Cello Concerto is a sensitive exploration of an inner landscape, devoid of joy; 'poor in spirit', restricted as it is to complex and tragic feelings. An inner landscape

mirroring maybe the devastation of Europe's war zones, that must have been so painful to contemplate for Elgar the traveller, who wrote this music at the end of the Great War. Maybe also an elegy for a lost friend? Elgar's ability to identify with the sad soul the cello depicts, was so deep that he even could make the occasional cheerful prompting passages from the outside world, (which the orchestra appears to represent) sound as meaningless as they would inevitably appear to a withdrawn and broken mind.

The soloist, Lowri Blake was temperamentally well equipped to enter into this deeply sensitive and searching mood for Elgar. She had previously studied with Jacqueline du Pre—but rejected her reading of Elgar—finding it more vigorous than Elgar had intended. Her interpretation was not only credible but, one felt, the result of a patient and receptive meditation on what Elgar meant to say. She is a technically impressive performer demanding intense concentration from the listener. The timbre and richness of her tone was sadly muted by the Great Hall's unresponsive acoustics. The vigorous playing from a substantial body of strings in the orchestra was right though similarly dampened.

This was a pity but did not overshadow the fact that the orchestra had once again invited a winning soloist to play with them. It must be merely a matter of time before she becomes a household name. Anyone unable to get a seat last Friday should seek out the opportunity to hear her play this concerto in the early spring of 93 at the Royal Festival Hall.

Those who took pot-luck and bought her CD 'Scotch and Soda', which was on sale in the intermission, had a nice surprise in store. In this recording she sings light music and accompanies herself on the cello. A harp and double bass also feature as backdrop to her very clear and good voice. May we see her invited back to Imperial to perform in this format and style too?

Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet Suites—were well-chosen for an orchestra possessing verve and enthusiasm in abundance and very considerable skills under the leadership of a youthful and energetic conductor.

The ballet suites nicely reflect the Russian attitude to life—alternating between loud and chaotic sections, as passionate and undisciplined as Russia in anarchy, and the tic/toc discipline of a military parade on the Red Square. The rhythmic

sections in fact demand such metronomic playing that the ICSO conductor, who at all times helps his orchestra along by bodily miming the music, appeared at times almost to be animated by clockwork.

Contemplating this great seesaw of two attitudes to life and society, one might perceive Prokofiev and Richard Dickins as being in cahoots in an endeavour to make the orchestra excel: pushing them regularly into recklessly indulgent lyricism—only to haul them back to the most rigorous time-keeping drillwork. It was as if the orchestra was weighed up and tested. The result of the test may be surprising as one usually expects amateur players to perform most successfully in the slower more lyrical passages, whilst here, in Romeo and Juliet, ICSO demonstrated a youthful vigour and strength in the rhythmic sections that was thrilling in the extreme.

All-in-all the concert was a huge success and a great credit to the soloist, the conductor and the orchestra. An extra tribute is merited by the solo wind players. The audience showed their appreciation by prolonged thunderous applause.

Ocean.

●

Theatre

Aladdin

This production of *Aladdin* had the audience singing, laughing and hissing and booing at the baddie - and that was only the adults.

The classic story about Aladdin and his lamp is told excellently in this stunning production. All the cast are perfect for the roles, especially the dame, played by Alan Ford. Unlike some dames who can be patronising or too stupid to be laughed at, this one had got it just right. Other impeccable characters include the baddie Abenazer (boo, hissssss), played by Michael Bertenshaw and of course, Aladdin himself, played by the excellent new-comer Benjamin Fellows.

If cast don't take your breath away with their performances (although I don't see how this is possible), then the set will. The artistic director or set designer or whoever dreamt it up has to be nothing short of a genius.

P J Dodd.

● Theatre Royal Stratford East, Stratford tube. Performances at 2.15pm and 7.15pm. Box Office 081-534 0310. Tickets £4-£10.



Aladdin

Romeo And Juliet

I don't believe that there can be anyone reading who doesn't know this classic story: Boy meets girl, they fall in love, their love is forbidden, they don't care, they would rather die than live without each other, they both die. Okay, maybe I'm trivialising. But what ever you feel about the story of Romeo and Juliet becomes irrelevant when treated such a performance.

The first scene begins with Romeo trying to declare his love for another, much to the amusement of his friends. You could be forgiven for thinking that this ballet was going to be a comedy, lively and fast moving. This makes the closing act all that more poignant as all the despair, love and sorrow are enacted so beautifully by the cast. I don't think anyone could call me a romantic, but I have to confess that even I was close to tears when Juliet finally fell dying upon Romeo's already lifeless body.

The sets and costumes were well thought out and impressive, the dancing, superb. The score by Prokofiev is well suited and contains a few pieces familiar pieces. A thoroughly enjoyable and well recommended evening.

Fiddler on the Roof

What a refreshing change from the usual *Grease/West Side Story/Oliver* round of college productions UCL DramSoc provided last week. *Fiddler*, the story of a new generation defying the traditions entrenched in a tiny Jewish village around the turn of the century, is a challenging and ambitious project. The music is complex, moods and scenes shift and change linked by a haunting, contemplative narrative. Cast, crew and orchestra succeeded in presenting a wonderful evening's theatre. A very talented company was led by the gorgeous Martyn Gilbey 'debuting' in the central role of Papa Tevye. The part is not an easy one, often alone on the stage. He holds the plot together with his touching musings and tin pot philosophies and is lumped with the show's most famous and difficult song 'If I Were a Rich Man'. Gilbey seemed totally at home and completely convincing as the puzzled Papa shambling, shifting and capitulating whilst brimming over with love in his halting simple speech, he had the audience enrapt.

Every role was perfectly cast - from Alex Hayton's gawky taylor, Bobbie Chatt's fiery Hodel (with an enchanting voice) to Frances Wedgewood's intimidating Mama

Golde. Whatever the scene; a wedding, shabbat, an argument, a dream, the grind, the joy, the pathos and the courage of the villagers shine through. The well drilled orchestra provided sensitive accompaniment to some excellent singing and neat, energetic dancing. Choreography was original and carefully detailed without being over complicated and messy.

Basically I was very impressed by an amateur production that was easily as good as, and better than much of what I have seen in the West End this year. Well done.

Sara.

● Sadler's Wells, Rosebury Ave, EC1, Angel tube. Box Office 071-278 8916. Tickets £5-£28.50.

Trelawny of the Wells

Rose Trelawny (Sarah Brightman), toast of the Sadlers Wells, leaves to court a 'toff'. Ducky doesn't take to the highlife 'cos she's a gypsy, guvnor, cor blimey strike a light...' She returns to the Wells broken hearted and mislaying her acting facility en route. Consequently is fired, so she and her chums go up the road to another theatre and act happily ever after... This nail-biting scenario(?) is swathed in a script of the worst 'hand-to-forehead-you-must-be-my-long-lost-sister' variety. Against such odds, the

curiosity value of the star-studded cast is an essential diversion.

Ms Brightman generously brings her 'Christine' to those of us who couldn't get tickets round the corner. Every line shrieked, eyes 'gods'-wards, arms outstretched, each sentence heavy with impending song (this injects a modicum of tension as the audience stay alert, earplugs at the ready). Aesthetic relief from this orthodontic nightmare is abundant. Every swaggable item is swagged, each drapeable, draped often in some novel tartan, not least Ms Bonham Carter. Sumptuously clad throughout, her flawless beauty is breathtaking. Her acting is not. The pouting E M Forster rebel, distracted and blasé is, however, very engaging...again.

The rest of the cast, cursed with cardboard characters from the Mary Poppins School of Realism, instil their roles with lashings of wit and energy. Michael Horden, despite frequent and obvious fluffs makes a very endearing old git.

It's an awful, annoying play but you won't see it done better. H.B.C. is gorgeous, the cow!

Sara.

● Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, W1, Piccadilly Circus tube. Box Office 071-867 1045. Tickets £6-£12.

WEDNESDAY

Cinema

Camden Plaza

211 Camden High St, NW1 (071-485 2443) Camden Town tube. Seats £5; 1st show daily £3.80; concs £2.30 1st perf only. This week:
Twin Peaks-Fire Walk with me 12.10 2.55 5.40 8.25

Chelsea Cinema

206 King's Rd, SW3 (071-351 3742) Sloane Sq tube. Seats £5.50; 1st show daily £3.80; concs £2.80 1st perf only. This week:
The Crying Game 1.35 pm 3.55 6.20 8.45

Electric Cinema

191 Portobello Rd, W11 (071-792 2020) Notting Hill/ Ladbroke Grove tubes. Seats £4.50. Today:
Blue Velvet 3.25pm 8.35
For those who die young 5.35 pm
Salette 5.50pm
Wild at Heart 6.20pm

MGM Chelsea

279 King's Rd, SW3 (071-352 5096) Sloane Sq tube then bus. Seats £6; concs £3.50 Mon-Fri before 5pm. This week:
Beauty and the Beast 2.10
Peter's Friends 4.30, 7.10, 9.30
Home Alone 21.10, 3.55, 6.40, 9.20
Sister Act 2.10, 4.40, 7.10, 9.40
Single White Female 1.55, 6.55, 9.25
Strictly Ballroom 4.30

MGM Fulham Rd

Fulham Road, SW10 (071-370 2636) South Ken tube then bus. Seats £6; concs £3.50 Mon-Fri before 5pm. This week:
Death Becomes Her 1.40, 4.10, 7.15, 9.35
Blade Runner: Director's Cut 1.40, 4.15, 6.50, 9.30
The Last of the Mohicans 1.10, 3.55, 6.50, 9.30
Sneakers 1.10, 3.55, 6.50, 9.30
Of Mice and Men 1.40, 4.25, 6.55, 9.25

Minema

45 Knightsbridge, SW1 (071-235 4225) Knightsbridge/ Hyde Park tubes. Seats £6.50; concs £3.50 1st perf Mon-Fri for students. This week:
Husbands and Wives 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00

Odeon Kensington

263 Kensington High St, W8 (071-371 3166) Ken High St tube. Seats £6. This week:
Peter's Friends 1.50pm 4.25 7.00 9.35
Home Alone 2 1.10 3.55 6.45 9.35
Glengarry Glen Ross 2.00 pm 4.30

7.00 9.30

Beauty and the Beast 2.15 pm 4.35
Strictly Ballroom 2.20 pm 4.45 7.10 9.35
Sister Act 2.10 pm 4.40 7.10 9.35
Single White Female 1.40 pm 4.20 7.00 9.40

Prince Charles

Leicester Place, WC2 (071-437 8181) Piccadilly/Leicester Sq tubes. Seats £1.20. Today:
Tie me up, tie me down 1.30pm
The hunt for Red October 4.00pm
Bob Roberts 6.25 pm
Apocalypse Now 8.45 pm

Scala

257-277 Pentonville Rd, N1 (071-278 0051) King's Cross tube. Seats £4.50; concs £3 Mon-Fri before 4.30pm for students. This week:
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2.30 pm 5.45 9.00
Nekromantic 4.05 pm 7.20

UCI Whiteleys

Whiteleys Shopping Centre, (071 792 3324/3332). This week:
Home Alone 21.20, 3.10, 6.00, 8.45
Death Becomes Her 1.55, 4.25, 6.55, 9.25
Sister Act 1.40, 4.10, 6.35, 9.05
Single White Female 2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45
Peter's Friends 2.05, 4.35, 7.05, 9.35
The Last of the Mohicans 12.40, 3.25, 6.15, 8.55
Strictly Ballroom 1.20, 3.40, 6.00, 8.40
Sneakers 6.25, 9.15
Beauty and the Beast 1.00, 3.50

College

Tenpin Bowling Club

meet 2.15pm in Aero Foyer or contact David Walker in Chem Eng 3

Fitness Club

1.15-2.15pm Southside Lounge. Intermediate/Beginner

THURSDAY

Cinema

Electric Cinema

Citizen Kane 2.50 pm 6.50
Othello 5.00 pm 9.00 pm

Prince Charles

The Playboys 1.30 pm
Truly Madly Deeply
Cinema Paradiso 6.30 pm
Magne's World 9.00 pm

Scala

Blue Velvet 4.20 pm 8.40
The night porter 2.10 pm 6.30

College

Quiz Night

with promotions in the Union Bar.

Bible Study

in the following departments. physics lecture theatre 1 12-1pm. Maths/Chem/Computing Huxley 413 12-1pm. Mech Eng 709 1-2pm. Civ Eng/Mines Civ Eng 444. Elec Eng/Life Sciences Elec Eng 407a 12-2pm.

Fitness Club 5.30-6.30pm in Southside Gym Intermediate level

Dance Club

Beginners Ballroom/Latin 7-8pm. Improvers Ballroom/Latin 8-9pm in the JCR.

Spanish Society

Meeting in Southside Lounge at 1 pm.

STOIC

1.15 STOIC News. 7.00 onwards STOIC present Films, Features, Competitions and (of course) news

FRIDAY

Cinema

Camden Plaza

Blade Runner the directors cut 1.10 pm 3.40 6.10 8.40

Chelsea

The Crying Game 1.35 pm 3.55 6.20 8.45

Electric Cinema

Bagdad Cafe 2.40 pm 6.30
Gas, Food and Lodging 4.30 pm 8.05

Odeon High Street Kensington

Sister Act 4.40 pm 7.10 9.40
The Muppet Christmas Carol 2.20 pm 4.40 7.00
Single White Female 9.30 pm
Mo' Money 2.40 pm 5.00 7.20 9.40
Home Alone 1.10 pm 3.55 6.45 9.35
Strictly Ballroom 2.20 pm 4.45 7.10
Glengarry Glen Ross 9.35 pm
The Princess and the Goblin 2.35 pm 4.45
Peter's friends 7.00 pm 9.35
Beauty and the Beast 2.00 pm

Prince Charles

Bob Roberts 1.30 pm
Naked Lunch 4.00pm
Far and Away 6.15 pm
White Men can't jump 9.15 pm
Rocky Horror Picture Show 11.45 pm

Scala

Swoon 5.10 pm 9.00
Poison and Chant D'Amour 3.10 pm 7.00

College

Rag Meeting

1.10pm in the Ents Lounge oppsite Da Vinci's.

Third World First

weekly meeting 12.45 Southside Upper Lounge

Fitness Classes

5.30pm in Southside Gym step Class take your student card.

SATURDAY

Cinema

Prince Charles

Buffy the Vampire Slayer 1.30 pm
League of their own 3.45 pm
Alien 3 6.30 pm
The Five Heartbeats 9.00 pm

Electric Cinema

An American Tail 12.00 pm
Barton Fink 2.00 pm 6.35
The Player 4.05 pm 8.30

Scala

Bitter Moon 4.30 8.00
Che? 1.30 6.00

SUNDAY

Cinema

Electric Cinema

Belle de Jour 1.00 pm 4.55
That Obscure object of desire 3.00 pm
Paris Trout 7.00 pm
Waterland 9.00 pm

Prince Charles

Driving Miss Daisy 1.30 pm
Fried Green Tomatoes 4.00 pm
City of Joy 6.30 pm
Cape Fear 9.00 pm

Scala

Les Amants du Pont Neuf 4.40
Mauvais Sang
My own Private Idaho
Edward 27.20

College

Fitness Club

2.00-3.00pm in Southside Lounge. Intermediate. 7

Credits

Declan Curry, Andrew Tseng, Dave Goddard, Steven Newhouse, Beccy Land, Steve Dunton, David Spooner, Dominic Wilkinson, Rachel Mountford, Tanya Nazim, Steff Smith, Sara Harland, Chris Riley, Jeremy Burnell, Chris Stapleton, Toby Jones, Catherine Darwin, James Grinter, Simon Govier, Emma Keeling, Rose Atkins, Andy Thompson, Gareth Parry-Husband, Stuart Rison, Gina Mortley, Sam Cox, Boris Springborn, John Furlong, Hugh Eland, Samin Ishtiaq, Patrick Wood, Sara Abdulla, Alex, Alex Taverner, Joe Baguley, Mel Cox, Simon Burton, Chris Davidson, Richard Cooke, Mario, Sphinx and John Westwater, Lise Yates, Gareth Light, Gwen, Sinead, PJ Dodd, not everyone likes what PJ writes, then again not everyone has a sense of humour, Phil, Phil Henry, John Simpson, Tamsin Braisher, Ali Mohammed, Rick Bilby, Ian Hodge, James, Felicity Lodge and all my flat mates who see me from time to time, Mike Chamberlin, Jonathan, Sarmad, Andy Kerr, Chris Pease, Mimi, Tina Vaaler, Sang, Don Adlington, Simon Su, Don Adlington, Jon Jordon, Khurram, Jonathan '29 and holding' Griffiths, David Montagu, Mike Newman, Marc Swan, Paul Thomas, Kate Dalton, Poddy, Bruce Drinkwater, Max Jalil, Rachel Bassett, My Existential Friend, BJ, and apologies to anyone left out inadvertently.

Thank you all

FELIX NEXT YEAR NEEDS

Writers

Photographers

Graphic Artists

Reviewers

| TIME | DAY | WED 16 | THUR 17 | FRI 18 |
|-------|-----|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 8-9 | | THE BREAKFAST SHOW | | |
| 9-10 | | MORNING MUSIC JAM | | |
| 10-11 | | | | |
| 11-12 | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 12-1 | | Penguin | LUNCHTIME LISTEN-IN | |
| 1-2 | | | | |
| 2-3 | | Dan the Man | Lofty | Kev R |
| 3-4 | | | | |
| 4-5 | | Philip Henry | Melissa | Phil |
| 5-6 | | Ralph | Ed | + Penguin |
| 6-7 | | Oli & Reg | | |
| 7-8 | | Antony | Jase | Cath |
| 8-9 | | News with Richard C | Kick Up The Arts | News Desk |
| 9-10 | | Nicholas M | Tom & | Adam & |
| 10-11 | | Alex M | Adam | Lemmy |

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I.C. STUDENTS' UNION BOOKSTORE WISHES ALL ITS PATRONS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Cold Dribblers

Dribblers 3—Goldsmiths 4

We were just outside Sidcup but it felt like the Yorkshire Dales, there were fields and streams and it was bl**dy freezing!

Arriving half an hour early meant we could keep up the Dribbler tradition and go to the pub for a quick half (actually it was a plate of chips and a coke, but we enjoyed it just as much).

We started off well with a goal from Jo in the first five minutes that left their defence in shocked silence. Twenty minutes later Chris scored a stormer, left-footed after her right foot came off worse in a hard tackle earlier in the game.

After half time we were three one up, the opposition had scored two goals one in their net and one in ours!

They had a rush of inspiration we were feeling the effects of a te

women team with one played injured and all of a sudden the score was three all, level and six minutes to go, we were trying to hold on until full-time where the ref had already decided to play penalties as the light was fading fast. Then they scored a deflection from a direct free kick just outside the penalty area. We fought back hoping to level the score, Julianna and Caroline had some storming runs up the field, Linda in goal played brilliantly. The defence were amazing. Well done to: Sue, Sharon and Jane and congratulations to Juliette who showed real style in her passes and volleying.

A BIG thanks goes to Chris and her dad for the new shorts, at last we can bend down without being embarrassed. Practices are at 6pm Thursdays in the Volleyball Court, all standards are welcome.

Lady Wobs

Wednesday saw the Ladies 2nd XI complete an exceedingly interesting train journey to Cobham and back without even touching a ball (!?) ('and it wasn't even a 158'—thanks Nancy). Our 'too sexy' reputation obviously preceeded us and the opposition (St Georges) were too scared to turn up but too rude to tell us in advance.

This was a disappointing end to one of the Ladies 2nd most successful seasons to date. Saturday, however, was an entirely different story when we beat the Royal Free Medics by a convincing 3 goals to 0, despite the loss of our courageous captain, Rachael Curan, who had to go off with a knackered knee only minutes into the game. (This was after going for a header the week before and ending up with a black eye—nice one Rach—it's hockey not football dear!)

This last victory brought our unbeaten run to a staggering 7 games in a row—quite an impressive turn around for a team that started the season with losses, which looked more like rugby results. This dramatic improvement is as a direct result of an extremely enthusiastic and committed team with an attitude (and lyrical talent) second to none. The Christmas break finds us at the top of the league with high hopes for the second round of the UAU. We would also like to explain to the first team footballers that there is little or no chance of us becoming their no 1 fan club and as far as ladies hockey is concerned—girls are always on top!

Team: Rachael, Vikki, Sarah, Jane, Nancy, Juliet, Carla, Sarah, Laura, Catherine, Louise and Jo.

Rugby fixtures

1st XV vs St Bartholomews
Meet 12.00 sharp
2nd XV vs Police (return fixture)
Meet 11.00! Sharp

See Rugby Club noticeboard for team lists.

Talkback

The first term of the college year has proved very successful for a variety of IC's sports teams. The Football 1st's are still on target for the league title, and the Universities cup. The netball team are through to the next stage of the UAU, as are the golf team. The rugby 1st's are still on target for the cup, and, there have been some excellent performances from all other teams representing IC.

Through the term there has been a nice flow of match reports from many of the teams, as yet there are some we haven't heard from though, for example, the womens hockey, and the tennis club. It would be good to represent all of IC's teams on the FELIX sports page. The deadline for any entries is 1:00pm the thursday after the games have been played. Next term I would also like to see some more

Photographs on the page, so if any teams would like to have their pictures in, please come into the FELIX office with details of the games when our photographers could go and watch them play.

Next term the Imperial College Boat Club will be hosting the 1993 National Student Indoor Rowing Championships. This will be held on Sunday the 7th of February. More information will be in FELIX early on next term, but this to let you know anyone can enter, and if you require an entry form, they are available from Carolyne Osner, IC Sport and Leisure Manager, 071-225 8663.

Also next term the next stages of the UAU start. I'd like to wish all teams good luck in their next few matches, and all IC sports men and women, a Merry Christmas.

THE CHRISTMAS DEATH BANG

On Friday 18th December the Union Building will be possessed by the High Priestess of Death Bang and the Scum Bag Posse.

To prepare for this visitation the Union will be cleared at around 7pm

Doors 8pm, £2.50 in advance; £3 on the door. Bar till 2am, Disco Till 3am.

Santa says

'Kick off those sling-backs and enjoy!'

Basket Bid

Imperial College Basketball Club may be stopped in its bid to play in an International Student Basketball Tournament to be held in Moscow on 31st January.

Imperial's Basketball club has raised nearly two thousand pounds of sponsorship, but need another £2500 to ensure their place in the competition. A bid has been made to the Imperial College trust for

some of the money, but the trip's organisers are not hopeful that the funds will be forthcoming and are also exploring the chance of commercial sponsorship. The final decision on the Imperial College Trust money will be made today.

Twenty Imperial College students have been picked to take part and will be playing against teams from all over the world.